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THE TIMES ANNUAL.

1892.

THE YEAR.

THE year 1892 has been a year, on the whole, of anxiety and public trouble. Although peace has been preserved, many of the nations of the world have suffered severe misfortunes, and this country has been by no means exempt. A gloomy January brought with it an increase of the distressing disease which for want of a better name has been called influenza; and from the outset this claimed many victims. In the second week the country learned that the young DUKE of CLARENCE and AVONDALE, the direct heir after his father to the throne, had taken it in its severest form; and from the time of the first announcement the physicians' reports gave little room for hope. He died within a few days, on January 14, at Sandringham, one week after completing his twenty-eighth year, and just when it had been hoped that he was about to enter upon a happy marriage with his cousin, the PRINCESS VICTORIA MARY of TECK. The cutting short of this romance by the hand of death was keenly felt by the people of the United Kingdom; and for the sake of the young PRINCESS, for his own sake and that of his parents, and by no means least for the sake of the QUEEN, the loss which the country had sustained became a personal grief to every one. The DUKE of CLARENCE was buried at Windsor, amid signs of general mourning. On the 26th there was published a letter from the QUEEN to the nation, a model, as is everything of the kind that comes from HER MAJESTY'S

hand, of the simple expression of profound feeling. It spoke of the young man "suddenly cut off in the flower of his age, full of promise for the future, amiable and gentle, and endearing himself to all"; of the grandson "whom I loved as a son and whose devotion to me was as great as that of a son"; and it ended in words that no subject of HER MAJESTY'S could read unmoved—"My bereavements during the last thirty years of my reign have indeed been heavy. Though the labours and anxieties and responsibilities inseparable from my position have been great, yet it is my earnest prayer that GOD may continue to give me health and strength to work for the good and happiness of my dear country and Empire while life lasts." It is pleasant to be able to record that the QUEEN'S health and that of the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, since the first shock of the blow passed away, have been good. HER MAJESTY greatly enjoyed five weeks of the early spring at Hyères, one of the quietest as well as one of the most beautiful of southern health-resorts; and since then, though there have been, of course, no Court festivities except on a very modified scale, the life of the Court has followed the usual routine. On the QUEEN'S birthday it was announced that PRINCE GEORGE of WALES had been created DUKE of YORK; in June his very youthful cousin PRINCESS MARIE of EDINBURGH was betrothed to the CROWN PRINCE FERDINAND of ROUMANIA, and as a consequence, both the young PRINCE and KING CHARLES, his uncle, have visited the QUEEN.

The political work of the year began under curious conditions. It was generally understood that the Session was to be the last of the Parliament, and the coming dissolution hung like a cloud over all the work of the House of Commons from the beginning. MR. GLADSTONE was away, recruiting at Valescure those forces which he was again to try to the utmost in the Session, in the campaign of the general election, and afterwards as once more the head of the Government. And if the regular Opposition was thus weakened by the absence of its leader, three of the other five parties were still more weakened by the

fatal hand of death. Since the House had risen, MR. W. H. SMITH and MR. PARNELL had passed beyond the sound of controversy, and the death of the DUKE of DEVONSHIRE, at the very end of the year 1891, had called the MARQUIS of HARTINGTON up to the House of Lords and made it necessary for a new leader to be chosen for the Liberal Unionist party. To MR. W. H. SMITH succeeded MR. BALFOUR, an inevitable appointment if it could fairly be said that the state of Ireland was such that the services of the unrivalled Irish Secretary could safely be transferred from the Irish Office. Happily the condition of affairs was such as to make the change quite possible. The calm and unswerving enforcement of the law during nearly five years had brought about its natural effect ; the Plan of Campaign was conquered ; the village ruffians had fled to America, or were kept safe in the prisons to which just sentences had consigned them ; Ireland was peaceful, and was beginning to be prosperous. If the peace was ever broken, it was between the rival factions which represented the once formidable party of MR. PARNELL. For a whole year the breach had existed, and it had rather widened than closed. MR. PARNELL'S death had done nothing to heal it ; for the difference between the factions was really a far wider difference than can be composed by any man less strong than MR. PARNELL—it was, and is, the difference between the priests and the Revolution. The difference showed itself at every point and at every moment, during the Session, and at bye-elections, in the struggle for the possession of the *Freeman's Journal*, and, above all, in the general election. But the existence of this division had among other excellent results that of setting MR. BALFOUR free to lead the House of Commons. The migration of LORD HARTINGTON to the Upper House was followed by the unanimous election of MR. CHAMBERLAIN to lead the Liberal Unionist party in the Commons.

Parliament met on February 9 with a comparatively unambitious programme before it, as became a House that was entering upon its last Session. It was soon seen, however, that

the Government was anxious to legislate, while the responsible Opposition no longer indulged in those wild demands for an immediate appeal to the constituencies, which had been the staple of many of the autumn speeches. There was nothing heroic in the list of Bills proposed in the Queen's Speech ; it was a moderate yet sufficient bill of fare, indicating that the Government did not regard the work of the Parliament as complete, while it did not offer anything too large to be properly dealt with in a last Session. The principal measures promised related to local government in Ireland and small holdings in England. The Address was disposed of in a reasonable time, the debate dealing chiefly with the two questions of amnesty for the dynamitards (raised by MR. REDMOND) and of Home Rule (raised by MR. SEXTON). On both questions what was interesting was to note the attitude of the Irish parties towards each other and of the Gladstonians towards the Parnellite wing. MR. SEXTON and his friends were almost silent about the amnesty ; MR. REDMOND was most precise and most embarrassing about Home Rule. It was in this debate that he challenged SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT to say whether or not he meant to oppose MR. PARNELL'S Home Rule ; and SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT, instead of answering, went home. MR. GLADSTONE, in a letter to his lieutenant just before the beginning of the Session, had declared that "the House would have no cause to regret his absence." Certainly the Unionist party had none, for the preference shown by SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT on this awkward occasion for his "own fireside" was of even more value to the Unionist cause than would have been the cloud of ambiguous subtleties wherewith MR. GLADSTONE, had he been there, would have met MR. REDMOND'S straight question. The amnesty motion was easily disposed of, but by a piece of bad management that was not soon forgiven to the Government MR. SEXTON was allowed to snatch a division which brought him within 21 of carrying his Home Rule amendment.

The narrowness of this majority probably had something to do

with the behaviour of the Opposition when, three days later, MR. BALFOUR brought in his Irish Local Government Bill. He well knew, as did the Government, that to attempt to legislate on the question at all was to court danger ; that there was little enthusiasm among his own followers for such a measure, and that the Nationalists and their Gladstonian allies were bound in honour to have none of it ; and that in the last Session of a Parliament the time to carry any such Bill would probably be wanting, even if the objections of his friends could be overcome. But he felt bound to make the attempt, which was, it must always be admitted, an honest attempt to legislate for Ireland on Unionist principles—that is, to extend to Ireland, as far as was possible, the same facilities of local self-government that had been granted by MR. RITCHIE'S Bill to England. The reception accorded to the mover's speech was of the most hostile description, but it was the hostility of a *parti pris*. The Irish group, with more than an ordinary display of their accustomed courtesy, tried to laugh MR. BALFOUR down, and such words as "sham," "imposture," and "insult" were among the mildest by which the Bill was afterwards characterized by MR. HEALY and MR. REDMOND. MR. MORLEY and SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT were a little more decent, but, as MR. BALFOUR said, not less "pre-arranged." The Bill was intended, in the proposer's words, to be a County Councils Bill and a District Councils Bill in one ; to establish elective councils for counties and also for baronies, the smallest administrative unit which exists in Ireland. These were to take over all the administrative duties now performed by the grand juries and by the baronial sessions, while not interfering with their judicial duties or with the granting of compensation for malicious injuries. They were to have in their hands the complete local administration of the country—its roads and woodlands, its sanitation, its lunatic asylums, its coroners, and so on. While describing these as the duties of the future councils, and speaking of the widely-extended franchise under which the councils were to be elected, MR. BALFOUR

was heard with something like toleration, but the case was altered when he began to speak of the extremely necessary provisions which the Government had inserted for the protection of minorities. Now, MR. HEALY and MR. REDMOND are resolved that minorities, except, perhaps, in Ulster, shall not be protected, and MR. GLADSTONE professes to believe that they do not need it; so that, when MR. BALFOUR announced that stringent clauses in the Bill would take care of the interests of the minorities, the desire of the Irish Opposition and of some of their English allies was to laugh or shout him down. One clause contained the principle of the cumulative vote, another the establishment of a partly nominated Board to control capital expenditure and permanent charges. Another, and still more important, clause provided that, on the petition of 20 cesspayers, a council charged with malversation or oppression should be tried by two election Judges, and, if found guilty, should be removed, and their places filled by persons appointed by the Lord Lieutenant. This was the unpardonable element in the Bill; the clause which one Irish member after another, with well-simulated indignation, declared to be an insult and an outrage; the clause, apparently, which made SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN declare that "ascendency was written in every line of the Bill"; the clause that made SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT and MR. MORLEY talk of "monstrous proposals" and pathetically appeal to outraged common-sense. The idea that oppression was possible in an Irish elective assembly was shocking to the faith of MR. MORLEY; but, strange to say, when, some months later, he was speaking to a popular audience on Home Rule, and on the thorny question of the relations between the Imperial and the future Irish Parliament, he declared that in cases of "oppression" it would be the duty of the Imperial Parliament to interfere. Thus, what MR. BALFOUR might not hint with regard to a county council, MR. MORLEY might freely say of the much more august body to be gathered on St. Stephen's Green.

The months before Easter were fully occupied. In the last

week MR. GOSCHEN introduced his Budget, which announced the small surplus of £224,000—no great balance, it is true, but better than had been anticipated by many prudent observers of the stagnant trade, the low rate of profits, and general anxiety which prevailed in the business world. The holidays then intervened, and were followed by much other business, so that it was not till the latter end of May that MR. BALFOUR had an opportunity of proposing the second reading of his Bill. The debate was much more serious than that on the introduction of the measure; the note of "pre-arrangement" had vanished; the Irish members no longer pretended to laugh the Bill down. The occasion was remarkable for the speeches of MR. CHAMBERLAIN and MR. GLADSTONE. The latter's appearances during the Session were comparatively few, but in attacking this Bill he showed much of both his old subtlety and his old fire. The Unionist party, as though to wipe out once for all the memory of their remissness during the debate on the Address, mustered in full force, and the second reading was carried in a crowded House by the great majority of 92, the numbers being 339 against 247. But this was the last that was heard of the Conservative Local Government Bill for Ireland. It was impossible, if the dissolution was to take place before the harvest, to carry so contested a measure through Committee at so late a period of the Session, and accordingly no one was surprised when, on June 13, MR. BALFOUR announced that the Bill, with that for amending Private Bill Procedure, would not be persevered with. The Government was more fortunate with its second chief measure, that for encouraging the creation of small agricultural holdings, which was introduced by Mr. CHAPLIN on February 22, got into Committee in April, and was duly passed into law. The Bill, which was piloted with no little skill by MR. CHAPLIN, provided for the acquisition of land by the county councils for the purpose of reselling it or letting it to small working freeholders or occupiers. The object, of course, was to do something to replace the yeoman on the soil, and to check

that depopulation of the country districts which in so many parts of England is a real evil. The Bill permitted county councils to borrow money on easy terms, in amounts which would not in any year add more than a penny in the pound to the rates, and to spend the money in purchasing land by agreement with the owner, and to sell in parcels under 50 acres or to let in parcels not exceeding ten acres. The payments by the purchaser were to be one-fourth in cash, one-fourth in form of a perpetual rent-charge, and the remaining half by easy instalments. The weak point of the Bill was certainly its dependence upon the county councils, which represent large areas ; and the Opposition endeavoured to compel a change in this respect, placing the matter in the hands of parish councils. But parish councils do not yet exist, nor did the House feel disposed to call them into existence on what, after all, is but a side issue ; and in the end MR. CHAPLIN easily carried his Bill, without even a division on the second reading. He made several concessions, all in favour of the future occupier or freeholder ; and the Bill was sent up to the House of Lords with general approval just before Whitsuntide. The Opposition would have greatly preferred to give the county councils compulsory powers of purchase, and it is quite possible that the new Parliament may be asked to do so ; but such a proposal naturally failed to gain the assent of a Conservative Minister and of his majority.

There was a good deal of wrangling over two other Government Bills, as is always the case where it is a question of distributing public money. The Scotch Equivalent Grant Bill intended to provide for the allocation, in Scotland, of a sum such as the country would have been entitled to receive when school fees were abolished, had it not already received free elementary education. The Irish Education Bill did much the same for Ireland. In the former case, the proposal to distribute the money partly among secondary education and the Universities, partly in aid of pauper lunatics, and partly in relief of local rates, was

carried after a good deal of time had been wasted. In the Irish matter, all went well till ARCHBISHOP WALSH declared against the clauses which proposed to introduce modified compulsion into elementary education in the towns; and MR. SEXTON, his mouthpiece, endeavoured to force the Government to alter their measure. After much delay, MR. JACKSON threatened to withdraw the Bill, and, of course, the grant; the Irish members began to explain away their opposition; and the Bill, with certain alterations, became law. So did the Indian Councils Bill, which provided for the tentative introduction, under severe limitations, of the elective principle into the Constitution of the Viceroy's and the Provincial Councils. The Clergy Discipline Bill was also passed after much delay, caused by the desire of a little group of Welsh obstructives to force upon the House their own views upon Disestablishment. MR. SAMUEL SMITH had duly brought forward a Welsh Disestablishment motion in February, and had mustered 220 supporters against 267; but this was not enough for the zeal of MESSRS. EVANS, LLOYD-GEORGE, and PHILIPPS. These gentlemen, however, after all their ingenious efforts to waste the time of the House, were beaten when the Bill came on for the third reading by 145 to 17. A more important incident in the history of the Church of England than even the passing of this Bill may here be mentioned—namely, the confirmation on August 2 by the Privy Council of the judgment of the ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY in the BISHOP of LINCOLN'S case. This decision, which practically upholds the BISHOP in the acts of which the Low Churchmen complained, is not easy to reconcile with some former judgments of the same tribunal; but it has probably settled the law of ceremonial in the English Church for a long time to come. A number of measures introduced by private members took up much of the time of Parliament, as did the necessary voting of Supply; and it was generally thought to be quick work when the Government found themselves able to wind up the Session and to dissolve Parliament so early as June 28.

For some time before the 28th, however, the interest of the country had been directed elsewhere than to the expiring House of Commons. Half the members were away among their constituents, preparing for the battle that was at hand ; and during the week before the Dissolution the addresses of the different leaders put the issues of the conflict definitely before the people. But an event of peculiar significance had done even more to fix the attention of the country upon the real question of the day. On the 17th an immense gathering of Ulstermen had taken place at Belfast to protest in unmistakable language against the policy of Home Rule, whether Gladstonian or Fenian, or both. A vast pavilion had been erected for the purpose, and here some 20,000 persons met together, 12,000 of them delegates, chosen, after full discussion, from every electoral division of Ulster. The DUKE of ABERCORN presided, but the speakers were purposely chosen from among the men known chiefly in their localities as tenant-farmers, workmen, chairmen of clubs, and so forth. The steady, determined, and yet moderate language of the delegates and the attitude of the Convention made a great impression, and MR. GLADSTONE was never feebler than when, the next day, he attempted before a Nonconformist audience at Clapham to explain it all away. One point that he made may be here recorded, for it is typical. "He had heard," he said, "of a protest of the 990 Nonconformist ministers in Ireland. Where were their signatures ? They had never been produced." This was said on a Saturday. On the Monday following, the protest in question, dating from 1888, was reprinted in *The Times*, and the signatures to it occupied two-and-a-half columns of the paper. At the time of the dissolution LORD SALISBURY, having no constituents to address, took the unusual, but perfectly natural and legitimate step of issuing a manifesto to the electors of the United Kingdom ; and the burden of it throughout was the Ulster Convention. It was a stirring appeal to the honour of the United Kingdom against "the abandonment of the Loyalists of Ireland, and especially the Protestants of

Ulster, to the unrestrained and absolute power of those with whom they had been in conflict for centuries, of the men, and the followers of the men, whose crimes were denounced before the whole world by the judgment of impartial Judges sitting in the Special Commission." MR. GLADSTONE ignored the whole of that side of the question, treated the electors to a good deal of dubious history, talked of "the happy omen of reciprocal affection which cannot but follow the frank concession of Home Rule," and then passed on to the millennium of benefits which the country was to enjoy under a Liberal Government when once Ireland was out of the way. MR. BALFOUR declared that a Gladstonian settlement of Ireland would be an unsettlement, and pointed with calm satisfaction to the positive achievements of six years of Unionist Government. The official leaders, however, are not by any means to be considered alone in estimating the course and significance of the general election of 1892. On the Gladstonian side, at all events, there fought a number of semi-independent auxiliaries, each with his own banner, and each with his own intentions. There was MR. STUART RENDEL, for instance, who gathered the forces of Wales under a flag on which the words "Home Rule" were overshadowed by those of "Welsh Disestablishment." There was MR. LABOUCHERE, who neither before, nor during, nor after the election showed himself at all ready to follow anybody's lead but his own; and there were the ominously increased number of Labour candidates who supported MR. GLADSTONE not for his ends, but for those of their new party, which is formidable beyond its numerical strength. Of this small party MR. JOHN BURNS is the best known and the strongest member. He was returned for Battersea by a large majority, polling no fewer than 5,616 votes. After three weeks of hard fighting, the new Parliament was duly elected, and was found to contain a majority of 40 (since somewhat altered by election petitions, &c.) on the Separatist side. The Conservatives numbered 268, their Liberal Unionist allies 47, and against this total of 315 were arrayed 270 Gladstonians,

4 Labour members, 72 Anti-Parnellites or Irish Clericalists, and 9 Parnellites—a total of 355. The Separatists entirely depended for their majority upon the Irish Nationalist factions; Great Britain by a small majority, and England alone by a large one, declared against Home Rule. In Great Britain, the number stood at 292 for the Union to 275 against it, a Unionist majority of 17; in England, there were 268 Unionists against 197 Home Rulers, a majority of 71. This dominating fact is not likely to be forgotten by the country when the struggle over MR. GLADSTONE'S Home Rule measure begins in Parliament.

A feature of the election was the comparative success of the Liberal Unionists, whose political extinction had been freely proclaimed by SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT and other prophets. Their victories, at all events in the Midlands, were largely owing to the energy and zeal of MR. CHAMBERLAIN. His majorities in Birmingham were overwhelming; they were sufficient in Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and Warwickshire. The great towns of England were divided on principles very difficult to explain, Lancashire being mainly Conservative and Yorkshire Liberal, and other curious results appearing all over the map. In the counties there were many Gladstonian successes, gained for the most part through the candidates having studiously ignored MR. GLADSTONE'S programme of Home Rule, and having gone for the labourer's vote on the broad ground that a Liberal Government would mean high wages, cheap food, and somebody else's land. The most conspicuous personal defeats were those of MR. RITCHIE in St. George's-in-the-East, and of MR. WALTER LONG in the Devizes Division of Wiltshire, of LORD CRANBORNE in the Darwen Division, of SIR E. BIRKBECK in Norfolk, and of MR. ARTHUR ELLIOT in Roxburghshire; but more important than any of these were the extraordinary diminutions in the majorities by which MR. GLADSTONE was returned in Mid Lothian, and MR. MORLEY in Newcastle. The latter headed the poll

in 1886, and at a bye-election soon afterwards beat ALDERMAN HAMOND by more than 2,000; but now he was the same distance behind his old opponent. It is only fair to say, however, that on offering himself for re-election a few weeks later, after accepting office, his supporters made a better show, and he beat MR. PANDELI RALLI by a considerable majority. In Mid Lothian MR. GLADSTONE, who had carried the seat in 1885 by a majority of over 4,000, was now only 690 ahead of his opponent; a fall which inevitably recalls his experiences of similar defection at Oxford, South Lancashire, and Greenwich.

LORD SALISBURY having determined not to resign without meeting Parliament, the Session opened on August 4. MR. PEEL was unanimously re-elected Speaker, and on August 8 the struggle began. The honour of moving a No-Confidence amendment to the Address was confided to MR. ASQUITH, whose steady rise in Parliamentary position during the last two or three years had marked him out for work of the kind, and for high office. After three nights' debate, in which the rank and file of the Gladstonians preserved an absolute silence, and in which MR. BALFOUR, MR. CHAMBERLAIN, and MR. GLADSTONE made remarkable speeches, the division was taken in the fullest House on record, and the Gladstonian party polled its entire majority of 40 against the Government. LORD SALISBURY of course resigned, and in about a week the new Government was constructed, with MR. GLADSTONE for the fourth time Prime Minister. He was then within four months of his eighty-third birthday. SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT became Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the lead of the House in MR. GLADSTONE'S absence; MR. JOHN MORLEY went to the Irish Office; and LORD ROSEBERY, after some persuasion consented to become Foreign Secretary once more. Besides these, the most interesting nominations were those of MR. ASQUITH to the Home Office, of MR. ARTHUR ACLAND to the Vice-Presidency of the Council, and of MR. HENRY FOWLER to the Local Govern-

ment Board. Parliament was at once prorogued, and up to the present time the Ministry has not generally shown its hand; its leading members having been markedly absent from the LORD MAYOR'S Banquet, where some hint of the work of the coming Session is commonly given by the Prime Minister. Public attention has been directed to three questions only on which Ministers have taken action. Thanks to LORD ROSEBERY'S presence and influence in the Cabinet, the abandonment of Uganda is "postponed"—we trust indefinitely; MR. ASQUITH has opened Trafalgar-square to "the people," but only on Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays, and then under conditions; and MR. MORLEY has appointed an Evicted Tenants Commission, which, in consequence of the intemperate opening speech and action of its Chairman, MR. JUSTICE MATHEW, has already proved a complete failure, the landlords one and all having refused to present themselves before it. A more serious concession to Irish disaffection was the release, on Christmas Eve, of the Gweedore prisoners, convicted of the slaughter of DISTRICT INSPECTOR MARTIN. This deplorable act of weakness was immediately followed by a dynamite explosion at Dublin Castle, which destroyed the life of a detective. Before we leave the history of the domestic politics of the year, we may refer to the election petitions of which a fairly abundant crop has followed the election. A vexatious attempt to unseat MR. ARTHUR BALFOUR was very easily repelled; MR. F. JAMES lost his seat for Walsall owing to some transgressions on the part of his agents of an annoyingly insignificant kind; and the elections for Hexham and Rochester were also declared void. Far more important than these were the petitions presented by the Parnellites in South Meath and North Meath against their victorious rivals for whom the priests had exercised their well-known machinery of spiritual intimidation. Both seats—the latter held by MR. DAVITT—were pronounced vacant, and the public of Great Britain received an invaluable object-

lesson in the meaning of Home Rule and free election in Catholic Ireland.

It is impossible to treat under any other head than that of domestic politics such an event as the election of the second London County Council, which took place in March, or such actions as those which have characterized its nine months of office. The election excited a great deal of interest, but chiefly on one side only, and, in spite of abundant warnings, the "Moderates," or Conservatives, allowed the decision of the polls to go against them by default. Of a total number of 489,704 qualified electors only 238,631 voted, while 251,073 abstained. The number of Progressives chosen was 83, and that of Moderates 35; so that, as the proportions of the "Alder-"men" are still more in favour of the Progressives, the advanced party has had it all its own way. LORD ROSEBERY was elected for East Finsbury without coming forward as a candidate. For a few weeks he resumed the Chairmanship, but since then he has not often attended, though he has given the support of his name to one important demand made by Progressive Councillors and others—that the County Council should be now permitted to absorb the Corporation of the City of London. The new Chairman is MR. JOHN HUTTON; the Vice-Chairman, MR. CHARLES HARRISON, the leader of the party whose watchword is "betterment." The best work of the year has been the adoption of the project for an important new street from Holborn to the Strand; but it appears that no progress will be made in carrying out this scheme until Parliament has consented to tax the landlords upon the new principle contained in the Council's "Owners' Improvement "Rate Bill." Meantime the Council, inspired by its members, MR. JOHN BURNS and MR. SIDNEY WEBB, has developed a new labour policy, the chief features of which are two-fold—that it will be as far as possible its own contractor, and that it will pay what is called "the trade union rate of "wages." In other words, it purposes to become an enormous

employer of labour, and to invite the trade unions to fix the wages for which their members—who are also the Council's constituents—will condescend to work. In vain did SIR THOMAS FARRER, himself at first one of the leaders of the Progressives, make a solemn protest against the ruinous cost of this policy. The majority talked of its "mandate," and voted the principle.

Throughout Europe there has been general anxiety, though no serious alarm of war. The influenza in the winter and spring and the cholera later have caused infinite loss and perturbation; and the year has been marked by political crises everywhere, by scandals in high places, and by the Anarchists' terrorizing activity. In the United States a Presidential election, in which MR. CLEVELAND, the Democrat, was successful, has resulted in a complete change in the political and commercial outlook. In South America the tendency has been towards pacification and improvement.

In the internal affairs of the great Continental Powers there has been no lack of interesting incidents. France has had two changes of Government, but the importance of both crises has yielded to that of the Anarchist outrages in the spring, of the Carmaux strike in the autumn, and of the Panama scandals, which are at this present moment a subject of intense interest not only to Paris but, in a less degree, to the whole world. M. DE FREYCINET'S Cabinet fell last February, because it had been long enough in office and because M. DE FREYCINET wished to extinguish his too powerful colleague, M. CONSTANS; and M. CONSTANS helped him by an unseemly scuffle into which he allowed himself to be drawn by the impertinences of M. LAUR, a Boulangist deputy, now a fugitive from arrest on charges connected with Panama. M. LOUBET, the next Premier, was comparatively unknown, except as a personal friend of PRESIDENT CARNOT. With the old Ministers at the War Office and the Foreign Office he conducted the affairs of France better than had been expected, till his Cabinet fell in one of the squalls

that together form the Panama tempest in which the ship of the Republic is now labouring. In the spring a series of abominable dynamite outrages in Paris warned the Republic that it had enemies below, and the capture and eventual execution of the ringleader RAVACHOL did not prevent a repetition of his crime, with fatal results, in the autumn. But a more serious danger has been found to threaten the Republic from within; and the corruption laid to the charge of certain groups of Senators and Deputies, including several ex-Ministers, has been made the pretext for an organized attack on Republican institutions which may, if it is intelligently directed, prove more formidable than any that they have experienced since the Royalists were beaten in 1877. The new Premier, M. RIBOT, was Foreign Minister in the last two Cabinets. He is a man of ability and unquestioned honour, but it may be doubted whether his somewhat pedantic manner and lawyer-like mind will enable his Government successfully to withstand the assaults and intrigues of which it is the object.

The Triple Alliance remains unshaken, and neither the signs of faction and internal weakness in France nor the frightful ravages of the cholera in Russia have persuaded the Sovereigns and statesmen of Central Europe that the need for that Alliance is any less than it was. On the contrary, the German Government is straining every nerve to strengthen the forces of the country by a new and severe Army Bill, opposed as yet by the Liberals and the Centre, and sharply criticized by the organs of PRINCE BISMARCK, who has lost no opportunity of proclaiming, often in a very unseemly fashion, that under COUNT CAPRIVI "the country is going to the dogs." The principal occasion of these denunciations was when the ex-Chancellor visited Vienna for his son's wedding, and had a great popular reception at Dresden, at Vienna, at Munich, and elsewhere. Stung to wrath by the instructions given to the German Embassy at Vienna that he should not be officially noticed, and by the ostentatious refusal of the Courts to welcome him,

he spoke with much bitterness both in public and in conversation with newspaper reporters. Semi-official threats of a prosecution were uttered; but fortunately Germany and the world were spared such a scandal. The EMPEROR has made one or two astonishing speeches, chiefly directed against the "grumblers" who objected to his reactionary Prussian Education Bill; and the anti-Semitic agitation still continues to smoulder, its most noteworthy incident being the publication by one AHLWARDT of a libellous pamphlet against "Jewish Rifles"—the rifles supplied to the German army by the well-known house of LOEWE. Russia has gone on mercilessly driving out the Jews, losing 250,000 souls by the cholera, "exploring" the Pamirs, and quietly hoarding gold for use in the next war. In Greece, a general election has sent back to power M. TRICOUPI, the only statesman who frankly recognizes that Greece is as yet a weak Power and unable to dispense with the good will of Europe. There is a new Prime Minister in Hungary; and in Italy the DI RUDINI Cabinet has made way for one presided over by SIGNOR GIOLITTI, the Moderate Left displacing the Moderate Right. In Spain, where the boy KING unfortunately has to struggle against weak health, the indispensable Conservative Premier, SEÑOR CANOVAS, has given place to the indispensable Liberal, SEÑOR SAGASTA. Portugal has been tranquil; the mob has neither attacked the KING nor insulted England; and the Mozambique Company has been reconstituted with English capital. Belgium has been a good deal vexed with labour troubles and by the mutual hatred of Catholics and Liberals; the bonds uniting Sweden and Norway have become more strained; while Holland and Denmark seem for the moment to have attained to the happiness of those people who have no history. In our diplomatic service a good many changes have occurred. LORD DUFFERIN'S nomination to Paris, in consequence of the death of LORD LYTTON, had taken place just before the end of 1891, but the changes consequent upon it and upon the much-lamented death of SIR WILLIAM WHITE were not finally determined for some

time. In the end, SIR CLARE FORD went to Constantinople, and was succeeded at Madrid by SIR HENRY DRUMMOND WOLFF; SIR ROBERT MORIER stayed at St. Petersburg, though he had almost left for Rome; LORD VIVIAN went to Rome from Brussels, SIR E. MONSON to Brussels from Athens, MR. EGERTON to Athens from the post of First Secretary in Paris; and later SIR JOHN WALSHAM left Pekin for Bucharest, MR. O'CONOR went to Pekin, and MR. DERING to Sofia.

Looking abroad to the dependencies and colonies of England and to the country where as yet her influence is supreme, we find few events of great moment to record. India has been peaceful, though anxiety has been felt as to events in Afghanistan, and during the autumn there was much talk of a meeting between the AMEER and LORD ROBERTS. That General's time as Commander-in-Chief having expired, he is to be succeeded by GENERAL SIR GEORGE WHITE, an officer of great Indian reputation. There has been a small expedition or two on the frontier; but the most remarkable has been the purely pacific one of MR. CONWAY and a few other mountaineers to a height in the Himalayas far in excess of anything that has been reached by human foot before. Anglo-Indians have specially felt the trouble which has weighed, this year more than ever, upon the whole commercial world, the decline in the value of silver as compared with gold, which to them means the fall in the rupee, and the consequent fall in official incomes. The formation of the Indian Currency Association, which urges the adoption of a gold standard for India, has been one of the important steps taken in view of this fall; another, which may or may not have some practical result, has been the appointment of a strong Committee at home, with LORD HERSCHELL as chairman, charged with investigating the whole question as it affects India. In Egypt, the KHEDIVE TEWFIK has been succeeded by his son, ABBAS, a youth of 18, and the revival of prosperity in the country has proceeded unchecked. MR. PALMER'S Budget, brought out in February, showed a truly

magnificent advance; and all but the extreme Left of the Gladstonians admit the success of the work which England is doing on the Nile, and the terrible danger which would come from our withdrawal. The colonies have gone on their way without phenomenal accidents, unless we are to except the overthrow of MR. MERCIER and the so-called Liberal—really ultramontane and anti-English—party in the Province of Quebec. In Australia there has been a great strike at the Broken Hill Mines, in which the men have had to confess defeat; and the question of the division of Queensland has advanced a stage. South Africa continues its course of rapid development, thanks to the continued prosperity of the gold fields in the Transvaal and the diamond fields of Kimberley, the encouraging reports from Mashonaland, the Zambesi, and Nyassaland, and the phenomenal energy of MR. RHODES. Further north there have been serious difficulties with regard to Uganda, the British East Africa Company finding it impossible to manage the territory and make it pay with its limited resources, and there having been feuds and bloodshed between rival factions, magnified, by the journalists of Paris, into "massacres," organized by the English, of Catholics and French sympathizers. The whole matter has been carefully considered by the Cabinet, in the light of CAPTAIN LUGARD'S reports; the company, in consideration of a grant from the Government, has agreed to postpone evacuation for three months; and SIR GERALD PORTAL, the British Consul-General in Zanzibar, has been ordered to proceed at once to Uganda with a sufficient escort to examine and report upon the situation.

If we are to look back upon the general non-political aspects of the year, we find the retrospect far from pleasant. Epidemic illness, one of the poorest harvests of recent years, bad trade made worse by labour troubles, and, at home and in the colonies, several great disasters—these might, with little injustice, be held to make up the main substance of the history of 1892. During the winter and spring the influenza was everywhere; in

August the cholera, which had been ravaging Persia and the Russian Empire, broke out at Hamburg, and took many thousands of lives. It visited Paris, Havre, and Antwerp, but the vigilance of the authorities fortunately prevented its gaining a footing in England. After a dry spring there followed a stormy June and July, with the result that the harvest was throughout the country far below the average. As the price of corn is lower than ever before, this meant disaster to the farmer; especially as the dearness of hay has compelled him to sell his stock at a ruinous sacrifice. The very serious condition of agriculture led to the assembling of a great conference in London a few weeks ago; but, unfortunately, the assembled farmers and their friends could devise no better remedy than bimetallism and protection. Trade in general, which might by this time have recovered from the effects of the BARING collapse, has been depressed by the silver crisis; a difficulty at once extremely serious, and, as would appear by the failure of the strongly-manned International Monetary Conference at Brussels, beyond the reach of any remedy known to bankers or to statesmen. If there has been no great disaster among highly-placed business houses, there has been during the autumn widespread trouble among small investors caused by the failure of the Liberator Building Society and a number of kindred companies; and at one time the panic among depositors in such establishments was such that even the Birkbeck was seriously assailed. Of the labour troubles of the year, the most conspicuous instance is that offered by the great strike of colliers in Durham, which lasted for twelve weeks (March to June), and ended in the men having to accept the wages originally offered by the masters. At this moment a very similar strike of cotton operatives in Lancashire, bringing misery and privation to many thousands of homes, is proceeding on much the same lines. More conspicuous but perhaps not more ruinous disasters have been the fire which destroyed the greater part of St. John's, Newfoundland, and

the hurricane which in April devastated Mauritius. Of the shipwrecks of the year, two, in the late autumn, were unusually tragic in character—that of the P. and O. steamer Bokhara in the China Sea, and that of the Roumania on the coast of Portugal. In each case there was a terrible loss of life. The Royal Navy has not escaped, for in the spring the Victoria went ashore on the coast of Greece, and in November the Howe struck the rocks of Ferrol Harbour. The Victoria had the good luck to be floated by the next tide, but whether the Howe can be saved is as yet uncertain. There have been perhaps fewer railway accidents than usual, but the telescoping of an express against a luggage train at Thirsk on the night of November 1, owing to the fault of an overwrought signalman, was of itself a disaster sufficient to mark the year. If crimes are to be classed under the head of calamities, we may here reckon those which sent to the gallows two of the most atrocious murderers on record—DEEMING and THOMAS NEILL CREAM.

A year which has seen the death of the great English poet of our age must have a place for ever marked in the history of literature. When he died a last volume of LORD TENNYSON'S poems was actually in the press, and has been published since; but, except for this small book, the chief event to interest readers of poetry has been the sudden emergence of a writer formerly known only to a few—MR. WILLIAM WATSON; most unfortunately, his success has for the time affected an excitable brain, but recent accounts promise that this excellent young poet will soon recover his health and the power to work. In fiction the year has produced, among a mass of writings already almost forgotten, three or four books that have made a deep impression; in history the chief events have not been any publications, but the death of PROFESSOR FREEMAN and the appointment of MR. FROUDE to fill his chair. Biographies and reminiscences have been without end; many might have been spared altogether, and almost the only one that is too short is the brief record of

the life and work of SIR HENRY MAINE that has just been published by SIR MOUNTSTUART GRANT DUFF.

Except the happy close of the long negotiations with MR. TATE for the founding of a Gallery for British Art, there is little to record in the history of the Fine Arts, where we have the curiously contradictory phenomena of dull markets and incessant new exhibitions. There are far too many painters for the demand; some of the wisest of them are learning to confine themselves to the illustration of books, for which the rapidly increasing perfection of "process-blocks" is giving every day a larger scope. The history of the auction room is of particular interest this year, not only on account of such sales as those of the late MR. DAVID PRICE'S and the late LORD CHEYLESMORE'S collections of modern pictures, but still more for the DUDLEY, MAGNIAC, and FISHER sales. LORD DUDLEY'S and the late MR. MAGNIAC'S collections each realized over £100,000, the former attaining that sum in one afternoon, when an early work of RAPHAEL and a lovely HOBBEMA each sold for over £10,000. Unprecedented prices were reached also by some of the late MR. RICHARD FISHER'S old prints. But the great sale of the year in the world of art and curiosity was undoubtedly that of the Althorp library to MRS. RYLANDS, who intends to present it, housed in a suitable building, to Manchester. In the theatrical world the chief events have been the two Lyceum "revivals" of *Henry VIII.* and *King Lear*; the production of successful comedies by MR. WILDE, MR. J. M. BARRIE, and MR. CARTON; and—most significant of all—the transformation of the Royal English Opera House into a music hall. The chief contriver of this change has also been running melodrama and pantomime at Drury Lane and opera (in Italian, German, and French) at Covent Garden. Elsewhere musical history has been relatively uneventful, except perhaps for the two or three appearances, and triumphs, of M. PADEREWSKI.

The death list of the year has been long and full of consider-

able names. We have spoken of the DUKE of CLARENCE, dying just as his flowering time of life was beginning. A little later the QUEEN had another bereavement in the death of her son-in-law, the GRAND DUKE of HESSE. On the same day as the DUKE of CLARENCE, died CARDINAL MANNING, at the great age of 83; and before the month ended there died at Mentone the great preacher of the lower middle class, MR. SPURGEON. CARDINAL MANNING was in many ways remarkable; he was almost great from the insight with which he recognized, and the energy with which he strove to put into effect, the power which might come to the Roman Catholic Church from a union with the democracy. Had he been 20 years younger he might have had time to become exceedingly dangerous. Among many other names which fill the year's obituary we may here mention LORD BRAMWELL, a great lawyer, and always to be remembered by the readers of this paper for the keenness with which, in letters signed "B.," he used to bring commonsense to cut through political and economical sophisms; VISCOUNT SHERBROOKE, better known as ROBERT LOWE; VISCOUNT HAMPDEN, formerly SPEAKER BRAND; SIR JAMES CAIRD, the greatest authority on agricultural statistics of his time; SIR PROVO WALLIS, a centenarian admiral; the two illustrious veterans of science, SIR GEORGE AIRY and SIR RICHARD OWEN, and PROFESSOR ADAMS, the discoverer of the planet Neptune; and PROFESSOR FREEMAN, the most diligent of historical students and the most vehement of historical controversialists. In TEWFIK PASHA, Khedive of Egypt, there has passed away a faithful ally of this country; in MARSHAL DEODORO DA FONSECA, the founder and first President of the Republic of Brazil. America has lost the least beloved of her millionnaires, JAY GOULD, and two of her poets, WALT WHITMAN and the Quaker WHITTIER; and France has lost her most distinguished Churchman, CARDINAL LAVIGERIE, and the greatest of her prose writers and the most stimulating of her critics of religious history, ERNEST RENAN. But to the English-

reading world, the loss which stamps the year is that of LORD TENNYSON, for over a generation the unquestioned head of English literature. He died on October 6 at his house at Aldworth, on the beautiful edge of Blackdown, and was buried, as was fitting, in Westminster Abbey, close to CHAUCER, SPENSER, and DRYDEN.

THE SESSION.

NO expectation was entertained in any quarter that the Session of 1892 would be fruitful in legislative achievements. In fact the performance has in this respect rather exceeded the promise, not, we admit, of the Speech from the Throne, which follows the high-water mark of Ministerial hopes rather than the practical limits of probability, but of the rational forecasts of working politicians. It was generally understood that, unless some exceptional circumstances interfered, the life of the existing Parliament would not be prolonged beyond the completion of the sixth year. This in itself was an element of paralysis, for members on both sides were much more occupied with looking after their interests in the constituencies than with pushing the fortunes of particular measures. The Opposition had been loud in their threats that, the House of Commons having "exhausted its mandate," nothing ought to be, could be, or would be, permitted to be done, except the necessary winding-up of business before the appeal to the electorate. It was boasted that the Government would be put on the rack until they consented to disclose the date of the dissolution, and that as for legislative progress it was absurd to pretend to it. Unionists did not affect to deny that the Ministry were hampered by certain disadvantages. Some abatement of the motive power by which large and complicated measures are carried through was the inevitable

result of the near approach of the day of doom. A considerable proportion of the majority were not seeking re-election, and, it was thought, would not respond with disciplined readiness to the call of the Whips. The gloom spread over society at large by the death of the DUKE of CLARENCE, the suspension of public and private gaieties, the unhealthiness of the season, the inclemency of the winter, the prolonged financial crisis, and the stagnation of trade contributed to lower the spirit and energy of the party in power, and, to a certain extent, to strengthen the hands of the Opposition. Moreover, the change in the leadership of the House of Commons, though MR. BALFOUR'S appointment was popular with all sections of the Unionists, involved risks and difficulties of its own. There was danger of forgetting that MR. BALFOUR'S gifts were not the same as those of MR. W. H. SMITH, and that, though he might prove, as he has proved an equally able leader, he would not lead in the same way.

In these circumstances, it is highly satisfactory that the Session which came to an end in the autumn of 1892—the seventh and last Session of the twelfth Parliament of the present reign—has been neither unproductive nor unsuccessful. Though it has endured for some ten days less than five months—not much more than two-thirds of the span of an average Session—four or five Bills of the first and second rank, and as many more minor but useful measures, have been passed into law. The whole policy of the Unionist Administration has been placed before the country. The political atmosphere has been cleared by the discussion of an unusual number of "open questions." On no issue have the Government met with a serious defeat or check. In spite of the belligerent attitude of the Opposition and the relaxing influences to which we have referred, the support of the majority has been loyally given to Ministers on every critical occasion. It is true all the measures enumerated in the QUEEN'S Message have not been passed; some have not even been introduced; but this is only what has to be recorded of every Session since the death

of LORD PALMERSTON. The first place in the Speech from the Throne was given to the Irish Local Government Bill, with which was coupled a Bill for supplementing the English Act. A measure to promote the increase of small agricultural holdings came next, and after this Bills dealing with Irish education, private Bill procedure in Scotland and Ireland, Indian legislative councils, rates on English elementary schools, Church discipline, the examination of accused persons in criminal cases, the agreement between the Government and the Bank of England, and the law of employers' liability. This list was largely supplemented by the production of other measures, some of them, such as the Scotch Equivalent Grant Bill, the Scotch Burgh Police and Health Bill, and the Superannuation Bill, rising at least to the second rank.

The debate on the Address was not inspiriting. SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT, acting as leader of the Opposition during the absence of MR. GLADSTONE at Biarritz, avoided all the questions on which he had been thundering in the provinces, as well as the disclosure of Ministerial policy in the Speech, and devoted himself to an attack on MR. GOSCHEN'S finance and LORD SALISBURY'S oratory. He was effectively answered by MR. BALFOUR; MR. CHAMBERLAIN exposed the reckless pledges and dishonest reticences of the Gladstonians, eliciting from MR. MORLEY a partial recantation of his advocacy of "scuttle" in Egypt, and MR. JOHN REDMOND, as a Parnellite, "wanted to know" whether or not "Fenian Home Rule," which he asserted was the demand of all the Irish Nationalists, was still repudiated by the Opposition, a question from which SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT valorously ran away. These advantages, however, were partially lost later on, when the failure of the majority to assemble in anything like their full strength caused MR. SEXTON'S Home Rule amendment, based ostensibly on the slow progress of Irish land purchase, to be rejected by no more than 179 against 158 votes. This temporary numerical weakness was largely responsible for the discontent and disorganization that at the outset seemed

to be spreading among the Ministerialists. MR. BALFOUR, unable to rely upon his nominal majority, was sometimes forced to leave questions open which might have been more prudently kept closed, to concede points to the other side where concession was doubtfully expedient, and, in one or two instances, to run the risk of defeat on a side issue. There was some grumbling on the Ministerial side, reverberated artfully by the Gladstonian Press and even by the leaders of that party, who hastened to proclaim that MR. BALFOUR was a "failure" and to prove the fact by pointing to some such trivial error in practical detail as the attempt to deal with the Scotch equivalent grant by an ordinary Bill and not a money Bill. But though a certain effect was thus produced it was evanescent. MR. BALFOUR soon showed that he possessed high qualities as a leader and commanded the full confidence of his followers, who, on the whole, came up to divisions most loyally after Easter, while both the English and the Irish Separatists fell short of their numbers on more than one critical occasion. SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT'S temporary leadership of the Gladstonians was not a successful experiment; tall talk, followed by "scuttling," casting a damp upon the rank and file, who were glad to welcome MR. GLADSTONE back in his own place.

The Government as soon as the debate on the Address was disposed of introduced their principal measures of the first and second rank, the Irish Local Government Bill, the Small Holdings Bill, the Private Bill Procedure Bill, the Scotch Equivalent Grant Bill, the Irish Education Bill, and the Scotch Burgh Police and Health Bill being launched in the Lower House, and the Clergy Discipline Bill, the Indian Councils Bill, and the Criminal Evidence Bill in the Upper. In the House of Commons the introduction of these measures, with a lengthy Ministerial statement in nearly every case and in most cases a set debate, occupied up to the middle of April all the time that the Government were not compelled to devote to supplementary votes in Supply, the initial votes of the Army and Navy Estimates, and

other indispensable financial business, as well as the Budget, which was brought in just before the Easter adjournment. The Estimates showed little variation from the normal scale, though the automatic increase of those for the Civil Service and Revenue Departments had been quickened by the rise in salaries and wages pressed from every quarter upon the Ministry, while the full charge for assisted education had now to be provided for. This situation, coupled with continued depression in trade and financial stringency in the City, deprived the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER of any opportunity of granting further remission of taxes. Though MR. GOSCHEN had a realized surplus of over a million for 1891-92, he left himself, after very careful calculations, only the narrow margin of £224,000 for the current year, the estimated expenditure being some £350,000 more than the actual Exchequer issues and the estimated revenue being some £500,000 less than the actual Exchequer receipts of the previous 12 months. Reckoning on a fractional increase in the revenue from the customs and the postal and telegraph services to be set against a fractional decrease under excise, stamps, income-tax, and other heads of receipt, MR. GOSCHEN was evidently in no position to reduce taxation, though he managed just to escape the necessity of adding to it. The only changes were the mitigation of the renewal fees on patents and the substitution of a fixed for an *ad valorem* duty on sparkling wines. The general discussion on the Budget took place some five weeks later, when MR. GLADSTONE surrendered to SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT the task of criticism, and the latter repeated at length his attacks on the Naval and Imperial Defence Acts, on the interference with the sinking fund, and the reduction of the income-tax. There was no special point in the debate, which was an electioneering one, but MR. GOSCHEN showed that neither SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT nor any other member of the Opposition, in comparing the remissions of taxation affecting the upper and middle classes on the one side, and the working classes on the other, had had the fairness to take into account the relief of the latter by the

abolition of school fees to the extent of two and a-half millions a year.

The attitude of the Opposition before Easter was ominous enough. The progress of business was discouragingly slow. The Irish Local Government Bill was met on the first reading with an organized oratorical fusillade, a theatrical display of indignation, and what has been aptly called "the argument by guffaw." The measure was based upon the widest popular franchise and transferred to the proposed county councils all the fiscal powers of the Irish grand juries with many others. But it was necessary, as was understood all along, to introduce certain safeguards to prevent the elective system from being turned into an instrument to effect, according to the threats of the Separatists, the ruin of the English garrison. The Conservative party were known to be doubtful as to the expediency of making so great a change in Ireland till the elements of disorder had been eradicated, and it was this probably which induced the FIRST LORD of the TREASURY, in his speech on the introduction of the Bill, to dwell more on its securities against abuse than on its democratic character. The protection of minorities was aimed at in the cumulative vote both for the county councils and the baronial or district councils, in the power given to two Judges of the High Court, on the petition of twenty cesspayers, to investigate charges of malversation or oppression against any council, and, if those charges were found to be proved, to dissolve the offending body, and, finally, in the constitution, borrowed from the Scotch Act, of a Joint Standing Committee, composed of an equal number of councillors and of grand jurors, with the sheriff as chairman, who should have control over new capital expenditure. The special privileges of the illiterate voter, so grossly abused in recent Parliamentary elections, were not extended to the new system. MR. MORLEY at once got up and denounced the Bill as a sham; SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT, MR. LABOUCHERE, and MR. SEXTON scoffed at it, each in his own style; MR. REDMOND, MR. M'CARTHY, and MR. HEALY agreed in treating it as an "insult

to Ireland." On the other hand, the Irish Unionists, represented by MR. T. W. RUSSELL, MR. MACARTNEY, and MR. BARTON, supported it, while MR. CHAMBERLAIN showed that it was a large and liberal extension of popular rights, and that, without safeguards, it would work quite differently from the English and Scotch measures. The Opposition, though so obstreperous in their mockery and invective, did not challenge a division. The Bill was then printed, and it was announced that the second reading would not be taken till the Small Holdings Bill had got through Committee.

This was, undoubtedly, a wise decision. It would in any case have been difficult for the Opposition to keep themselves screwed up to the high concert-pitch at which they chose to start. But though they could hardly have maintained a monotonous level of indignation and ridicule during the debates in Committee on a Bill of 73 clauses, these emotions, even if they were only pumped up occasionally and to order, would have lent themselves conveniently to obstructive schemes, and helped to justify MR. LABOUCHERE'S prophecy that the Session would be an utterly barren one. The attitude of the Gladstonians, moreover, on the introduction of the Small Holdings Bill, which was brought in by MR. CHAPLIN a few days later than the Irish Local Government Bill, showed that they understood the different view of the two measures taken by the electors of Great Britain, who, weary of the Irish controversy, could not be induced to interest themselves very keenly in the latter, while many of them were eager that the experiment embodied in the former should have a fair trial. MR. CHAPLIN'S opening statement met with general approval. County councils were to be empowered to borrow public money on easy terms, to an amount not involving for any year a charge on the rates of more than one penny in the pound, in order to purchase land by agreement with the owner, and to sell it to small farmers in parcels under 50 acres, the occupier paying one-fourth of the purchase-money in cash, one-fourth remaining secured by a perpetual rent-charge, and the other moiety being repayable, with

interest, by instalments. Permission was further given to let, instead of selling, holdings under ten acres. Objection was taken by the Gladstonians that the scheme was not compulsory, that it was not intrusted to parish councils, and that the power of leasing was not more extended, but open resistance was not attempted. The measure passed both the first and second readings without a division, and, instructions in favour of placing the work under parish councils or other small bodies having been rejected, the House went into Committee on the Bill, and had made good progress with the first clause before adjourning for Easter. After the holidays, the attendance of members being small, there was some further delay, but when the Committee resumed work on May 9 it was evident that the Government had their majority well in hand. MR. CHAPLIN, whose skilful conduct of the Bill, judiciously combining firmness and reasonableness, won high praise, even from his opponents, did not refuse to make concessions on minor points. Among these may be mentioned the permission to let holdings up to 15 instead of 10 acres, the reduction of the proportion of the purchase-money to be paid in cash from one-fourth to one-fifth, the substitution of registration of title for conveyance, and, in deference to strong expressions of opinion from both sides of the House, MR. CUST vigorously urging the change from the Conservative benches, the treatment of the new holdings as personalty rather than realty in cases of intestacy. On this last point the House of Lords reversed the decision of the House of Commons, and, as it was too late to raise a prolonged discussion, the law remains unaltered. The general principle of compulsion was rejected by a majority of 42, the unlimited right of letting by a majority of 80, and the power to take land on lease for letting purposes by a majority of 77. The report stage was got quickly and easily through, and the Bill, being read a third time without debate or division, was sent up to the House of Lords a week before the Whitsuntide adjournment. With the exception just referred to the Upper House introduced no substantial changes, and the Bill was passed.

The complete collapse of opposition to the Small Holdings Bill in its final stages was due, in part, to the remarkable success achieved by the Government on the second reading of the Irish Local Government Bill, the fortunes of which, as Whitsuntide drew near, were clearly seen to be dependent on the decision as to the date of dissolution. If the Irish Bill were to be proceeded with, there could be no hope of getting through its 73 clauses in the teeth of the obstinate resistance threatened by British and Irish Separatists alike, except by prolonging the Session far into the autumn. This course, owing to the fact that the Unionists are always below their full strength in the great towns during the holiday season, would have, as a matter of tactics, compelled the postponement of the appeal to the constituencies to the end of October or beginning of November. For the latter plan, indeed, there was a good deal to be said, and for some time the Ministry hesitated, but the pressure of the rank and file on all sides was irresistible. The vast majority of members recoiled from the dreary toil of sitting through the autumn, and were impatient of detention at Westminster when they were anxious to be courting their constituents. Though this question was rapidly moving to a settlement, it had not been finally settled when the debate on the second reading of the Local Government Bill was opened on the 19th of May with a lengthy speech from Mr. Sexton, who, in the absence, through illness, of his nominal leader, Mr. M'Carthy, moved the rejection of the measure. The discussion was marked by a significant change of tone on the part of the Opposition. The "argument by guffaw" disappeared. With the text of the Bill before the House, it required some hardihood to contend that it was merely an ascendency measure, though Sir George Trevelyan did not shrink from asserting this. Mr. Chamberlain exploded this theory by showing that nine-tenths of the Bill went as far as, if not further than, the English and Scotch Bills; the Ulster Unionist members declared themselves satisfied with the proposals of the Government; and the criticisms of the Gladstonians generally turned

on details that would have been more properly considered in Committee. But the most remarkable feature in the debate was the lack of interest shown by the Irish Separatists, who, occupied with their internecine feuds at home, attended irregularly, and scarcely attempted to keep up to the key-note of indignant protest that MR. SEXTON had given them. At the close of the discussion MR. GLADSTONE intervened in person, speaking with wonderful vigour for a man of his years and exhibiting some relics of his craft as an old Parliamentary hand; but he failed to grasp the question in a broad sense, and, by reckless errors in his criticism on details, delivered himself over to MR. BALFOUR'S crushing and incisive reply. MR. GLADSTONE had gone out of his way to challenge MR. BALFOUR on the subject of LORD SALISBURY'S reference to the danger of provoking civil war in Ulster by the imposition of Home Rule, and the FIRST LORD of the TREASURY, in adopting the language of the PRIME MINISTER, aroused the enthusiasm of his party. The second reading was carried on a division, taken on the 24th of May, by a majority of 92. Reckoning pairs and tellers, almost the whole strength of the Unionists was accounted for, while the Separatists fell short by over thirty votes of their actual numbers, the largest defection being among the Anti-Parnellite faction, rent by the rivalries of MR. HEALY, MR. DILLON, MR. SEXTON, and MR. O'BRIEN.

The other Ministerial measures which were advanced, though involving not much really controversial matter, took up a good deal of time. The Scotch Equivalent Grant Bill and the Irish Education Bill were intended to make permanent provision for the share, held to be due to those countries, of the charge of which the State relieved the parents of children in elementary schools when fees were abolished. As Scotland had already secured free elementary education, it was proposed to distribute the Scotch grant partly in aid of secondary education, of the Universities, and of the maintenance of pauper lunatics, and partly as a direct subsidy for the relief of local rates. The latter part of the plan caused a split among the Scotch members, some

favouring and some opposing the relief of the ratepayers, even MR. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN and SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN being thus divided. The Government made some trifling concessions, but the Bill passed through Committee with no material alteration. It seemed at first as if the Irish Education Bill would have as smooth a course; it proposed to apply the grant for 1891-92 to the Teachers' Pension Fund, and to distribute the full sum of £200,000 for the current and following years, partly in a capitation grant and partly in augmenting the salaries of the teaching staff, but coupled with a system of modified compulsion, to be applied immediately in towns, and ultimately, at the option of local authorities, in rural districts. The measure was welcomed at the outset by the Irish members of all sections, though some of the Ulstermen were suspicious of the inroads of denominationalism. After a delay, which suggested that the Church was probably standing out for better terms, MR. SEXTON, taking his cue from a fulmination by ARCHBISHOP WALSH against compulsion as an insult to "Catholic Ireland," assailed the Bill, while the Parnellites denounced this rejection of hard cash in deference to priestly dictation. A hostile amendment to the second reading was thrown out by a majority of 99, but MR. SEXTON'S opposition was renewed in Committee, when MR. JACKSON intimated that the Bill, if opposed in the closing days of the Session, must be dropped, a result for which, it seems, neither MR. SEXTON nor his clerical patrons were prepared. A *modus vivendi* was found in MR. SEXTON'S statement that the Christian Brothers' schools, the exclusion of which was assailed, were willing to submit to a conscience clause, and on this understanding the CHIEF SECRETARY offered to leave it to the Irish Education Commissioners to devise rules under which such schools might share in the grant. The opposition then ceased, and the Bill was quickly run through. A much longer, but, fortunately, a less contested, measure, the Scotch Burgh Police and Health Bill, was the subject of some obscure conflicts, but in the end got safely through its ordeal. The House of Lords had sent

down the Criminal Evidence Bill, the Indian Councils Bill, and the Clergy Discipline Bill before the end of March. The first was unopposed up to the Committee stage, was attacked on the motion for referring it to the Standing Committee on Law by the English and Irish Separatists, on the ground that to allow an Irish prisoner to give evidence on his own behalf would be dangerous; and, as MR. BALFOUR'S half-promise to exclude Ireland was unfavourably received by the Ulster members, the fate of the Bill was soon sealed, it being found impossible to get together a quorum of the Standing Committee. The Indian Councils Bill was more fortunate. Increasing the members and enlarging the right of debate of the Legislative Councils, Viceregal and Provincial, it gave a discretionary power to the VICEROY to appoint persons chosen on some elective system, and on this concession MR. SCHWANN and some other feather-headed Radicals endeavoured unsuccessfully to graft a complete and compulsory elective system. MR. CURZON'S clear and forcible exposition of the policy of the Indian Government was not seriously attacked by any official personage on the opposite side, and the Bill ultimately passed with ease. In spite of the avowed and ardent support of MR. GLADSTONE, the Clergy Discipline Bill ran some risk in the House of Commons, though opposed only by a little knot of Welsh members. It was merely intended to give power to remove from the cure of souls clergymen convicted of criminal or disgraceful conduct, without casting, as heretofore, the whole cost and responsibility on the Bishop of the diocese; yet this was resisted on the second reading by a small and obstinate minority in the interests of the disestablishment party. Several divisions were taken, but the Bill was at length referred to the Standing Committee on Law, where MR. SAMUEL EVANS, MR. LLOYD-GEORGE, and one or two kindred spirits renewed their obstructive tactics in the teeth of MR. GLADSTONE'S appeals and the protests of the chairman, MR. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN. After days had been spent on the first clause, MR. BALFOUR moved in the House that the Committee should sit *de die in diem* till the

Bill was through, and just before the adjournment for Whitsuntide the chairman, declaring a number of the amendments put down by the obstructives to be neither serious nor substantial, refused to put them, whereupon MR. EVANS, MR. LLOYD-GEORGE, and MR. PHILIPPS withdrew, and the Bill was reported to the House. On the report the opposition was resumed, but with the aid of the closure it was easily overcome, and the Bill was passed by a majority of 145 against 17.

An understanding between the two front benches had by this time been arrived at, on the assumption that the Session would be closed before the end of June. Both parties were agreed to expedite business. MR. BALFOUR cleared the decks by announcing that the Irish Local Government Bill, the Private Bill Procedure Bill, and several minor measures would be dropped, though he felt bound to persevere with certain non-contentious Bills, among them MR. GOSCHEN'S for the revision of the agreement with the Bank, some of which had not even been introduced. It was necessary, in the first place, to make progress with Supply, in which only some half-a-dozen votes out of nearly 150 had been obtained before the Whitsun holidays. But with general good will the work was despatched at unparalleled speed. In three sittings the whole of the Estimates for the Army, the Navy, the Civil Service, and the Revenue Departments, including even the Irish votes, were run through. A futile attempt was made to raise a cry against the Government on the ground that arrangements were not made to enable the polls to be taken on a Saturday. MR. LABOUCHERE moved the adjournment of the House on this point, and was supported by SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT and MR. GLADSTONE, contending that it is on Saturday evening only the working men can conveniently vote. The Ministerial reply was that, while the polling hours have been extended to 8 o'clock expressly that working men may vote on any evening, a Saturday poll would disfranchise the Jews, as well as great numbers of small shopkeepers and tradesmen. MR. BALFOUR refused, for the sake of this more than doubtful object, to bring pressure to

bear on the Upper House to hurry through the legislation that had been sent up at the last moment from the Lower House.

Many elements combined to multiply debates on measures or motions brought forward by private members. As the dissolution drew near, politicians of all parties were eager to place themselves *en évidence*. But, apart from this general motive, there were special reasons for the activity of several groups and sections of the House. The split among the Irish Separatists set up a Parliamentary rivalry between Parnellites and Anti-Parnellites, which soon made itself apparent upon the order-book. The conditional encouragement given by MR. GLADSTONE to the Separatists of Wales and Scotland induced these to compete in making their claims prominent with their Irish allies. All who were angling for the labour vote, the temperance vote, the disestablishment vote, and even the Salvation Army vote, snatched at the opportunity of showing their zeal. As a rule, these efforts were barren of practical results, and, perhaps, were not often intended to have any. But, short as the Session was, a few private members' Bills got through. LORD HERSCHELL was successful in carrying a measure for the prevention of betting and the borrowing of money by persons under age. A Bill prescribing a close time for hares during the breeding season, introduced by COLONEL DAWNAY, was passed with scarcely a show of opposition in either House. Two small Irish Bills were adopted with the sanction of the Government—a Labourers' Allotments Bill, brought in by the Anti-Parnellites, and a Poor Law Amendment Bill, brought in by the Parnellites. MR. BRYCE seemed on the point of success in pressing his demand for "access to mountains," the Government accepting the principle of his resolution, but insisting on safeguards, which were embodied in a measure which was subsequently introduced by the LORD ADVOCATE, but was dropped when it was found that the Opposition would resist it. An Eight Hours Bill for miners, introduced by MR. LEAKE, a recent convert, was rejected on the second reading by a majority of 272 against 160. SIR ALBERT ROLLIT'S Women's Suffrage Bill was thrown out on a

division, which showed a good deal of cross-voting and some noteworthy abstentions, by a majority of 175 against 152; MR. HUNTER'S Bill to assimilate the law of divorce in England to that of Scotland by 71 to 40, MR. HALDANE'S Bill empowering local authorities not only to purchase land, but to ear-mark it and claim the unearned increment, by 223 to 148; and MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE'S "One Man One Vote" Bill, met with an amendment by MR. T. W. RUSSELL insisting as a condition precedent on the withdrawal of the excessive representation of Ireland, by 243 to 196. But MR. STANSFELD'S Registration Bill was read a second time with the consent of the Government, guarded by MR. BALFOUR'S protest against touching the qualification, by 295 against 88, and MR. MATTINSON'S Municipal Corporations Amendment Bill obtained the same measure of favour, as well as MR. PROVAND'S Shop Hours Bill, and Mr. GERALD BALFOUR'S Bill to define the law with respect to the rating of machinery, which, after a great deal of cross-voting, had a majority of 332 against 122 on the second reading. The Irish members of both factions brought in several Bills and motions bearing upon the land question, on one of which, for the restoration of the evicted tenants, the Gladstonian leaders capitulated to the Parnellites. The Welsh Radicals, following the example of the Irish, produced a Tenure of Land Bill establishing the legal settlement of rents in Wales, which was rejected by a majority of 234 against 113. Another measure in which Wales was interested more largely than other parts of the country, the Places of Worship Enfranchisement Bill, was read a second time by a large majority, the Government taking up a somewhat hesitating attitude. Some important private Bills came before Parliament, among them the Birmingham Water Bill, opposed in the interests of London as well as of Wales; SIR EDWARD WATKIN'S scheme for opening up new railway communication between London and the North, resisted unsuccessfully by the population of the St. John's-wood district; and the London County Council's Bill for taking over the Westminster-bridge tramway line. The passing of the East-

bourne Bye-laws Bill was a discreditable concession to the clamour of the Salvation Army against restrictions on their alleged right to make themselves a public nuisance.

The resolutions brought forward by private members dealt with many of the topics of the Newcastle programme. The attack on the Septennial Act was repelled by 188 against 142, the proposal to pay members of Parliament by 227 against 162, and MR. ROBERTSON'S denunciation of the common law doctrine of conspiracy, in the interests of boycotting and rattening, though supported by SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT and SIR CHARLES RUSSELL, was backed only by 180 votes against 226. On DR. CAMERON'S Scotch Disestablishment motion, MR. FINLAY'S amendment refusing to apply Church property to secular uses was carried by 247 to 175. MR. S. SMITH'S parallel attack on the Church in Wales was met by a majority of 267 against 220. A censure of the LORD CHANCELLOR for appointing a County Court Judge in Wales who could not speak Welsh was negatived early in the Session, when the Ministerialists were slack in their attendance, by only 166 to 143. DR. CLARK'S demand for "Home Rule all round" and MR. CALDWELL'S proposal to reopen the crofter question were as unsuccessful as they deserved to be, but the claim urged by MR. GARDNER that public meetings should be allowed to be held in elementary schools was not resisted by the Government. MR. WEBSTER obtained, by a majority of 117 to 51, an important decision on the question of abolishing the privileges given to illiterate voters under the Ballot Act. Among other subjects discussed were coast communications, the Gresham University Charter, and the control of the telephones by the Post Office. The appointment of a committee to inquire into the financial relations of the different parts of the kingdom was complicated by an unsuccessful appeal for the separate consideration of the case of Wales. External policy attracted little notice. The grant proposed by Government in aid of the Mombasa railway survey was assailed by the Opposition, but was carried by a majority of 98, giving rise subsequently to a curious question

of privilege, as three of the directors of the British East Africa Company had taken part in the division. The affairs of the company and the troubles in Uganda were the subject of later discussions. An ineffectual attempt was made to force the Government to disallow an Act passed by the Queensland Parliament for the importation of Polynesian labour. For the first time for many years the proposal to adjourn over the Derby was rejected by a narrow majority, the stern patrons of virtue showing their earnestness by failing to make a House next day.

Though the aspect of the House of Commons was strikingly altered by the removal or prolonged absence of several of the leaders, it cannot be said that the balance of political reputation and influence was substantially changed. While MR. BALFOUR has firmly established his authority as leader of the Conservatives, the elevation of the DUKE of DEVONSHIRE to the Upper House has placed MR. CHAMBERLAIN, now unquestionably one of the most effective and adroit of Parliamentary debaters, at the head of the Liberal Unionists in the Commons. The Unionist alliance suffered no wrench in consequence of these changes, and on the eve of the general election was as firm as ever. MR. GLADSTONE'S absence at the opening of the Session and his refusal to take part in many important discussions were signs of age and weakness, against which must be set the energy and the controversial skill he displayed when he wound himself up to intervene, notably in the debate on the Irish Local Government Bill. SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT'S provisional leadership was unsatisfactory, though on his own side there is no one equal to him as a versatile, audacious, and brilliant rhetorician. The most remarkable gap was that caused by the death of MR. PARNELL, which MR. REDMOND, in spite of his ability, has scarcely shown himself able to fill. Among the Anti-Parnellites confusion and division reign. MR. M'CARTHY'S leadership was never intended to be more than nominal, but owing to his broken health it has been absolutely reduced to a nullity. MR. SEXTON has been used as a Parliamentary speaking-trumpet; MR. DILLON and

MR. O'BRIEN have lost popularity and character; MR. HEALY is the real head of the party, though Dublin rather than Westminster has been the principal scene of his activity during the Session. Not many new men have come forward in any party. MR. CURZON, as Under-Secretary for India, has made a reputation in Parliament quite above the common level attained by subordinate officials. MR. WYNDHAM and MR. CUST have shown marked ability in debate on the Conservative side, and in MR. BARTON the Ulster loyalists have obtained a spokesman who at once secured a high position in the House. Among the Opposition we may notice the steadily growing influence, both in policy and in debate, of MR. ASQUITH. The split in the Irish party has been paralleled by the breach between the two sections of the labour representatives. An interesting case of privilege was decided in the case of MR. M'CLURE and two other directors of the Cambrian Railway, who were reprimanded and compelled to apologize for having dismissed a station-master on the ground, as was alleged, that he had given evidence adverse to the Company before a Parliamentary Committee on the hours of railway labour. Some other personal questions came up for discussion. The House of Commons had to discharge the painful duty of expelling two of its members—MR. HASTINGS, who had pleaded guilty to a charge of fraud as a trustee, and MR. DE COBAIN, who had refused to surrender and stand his trial for a disgraceful offence. The precedent of the VERNEY case was followed in dealing with the former and of the SADLEIR case in dealing with the latter. Some remarkable additions have been made to the House of Lords. PRINCE GEORGE of WALES has taken his seat in that Chamber as DUKE of YORK. SIR FREDERICK ROBERTS, SIR WILLIAM THOMSON, SIR ACLAND HOOD, and SIR H. SELWIN-IBBETSON have been also raised to the peerage.

SCOTLAND.

THE year 1892 has been marked by extraordinary political activity in Scotland, consequent, no doubt, on the dissolution of Parliament. In the political as in the theatrical world the managers have got into the way of relying for their success less on their stock companies than on the periodical visits of distinguished "stars," local talent being utilized for the purpose of filling the subordinate parts. The "stars" who came to enlighten Scotland during the year included Lord Ripon, the Duke of Argyll, Lord Carrington, Lord Hartington (before he became Duke of Devonshire), Lord Rosebery, Mr. A. J. Balfour, and Mr. Gladstone.

These demonstrations, which on both sides were equally brilliant and successful, both spectacularly and oratorically, culminated in Mr. Gladstone's seventh Mid Lothian campaign, which took place on the eve of the general election in July. The right hon. gentleman arrived in Edinburgh on June 29, in order to take up his residence as the guest of Lord Rosebery at Dalmeny. It must be admitted in fairness that there was no perceptible falling off in the enthusiasm of the multitudes that witnessed his arrival or that greeted his progress through the city and through the country. The vigour with which he prosecuted his campaign was extraordinary in a man of his years. He delivered eight great speeches in Scotland —seven in Mid Lothian and one in Glasgow—not to mention

little speeches by the way during his progress through the country. His speeches in the Music-hall, Edinburgh, in the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, and at West Calder were marvellous efforts, and would have done credit to a man in the prime of life. The severe heckling to which he was subjected at Corstorphine led to a display of irritability which his friends must have regretted; but that did not diminish the interest taken in his subsequent speeches. Mr. Gladstone's first speeches in Edinburgh and Glasgow were followed by Mr. Goschen's replies in the same cities, which were full of characteristic vigour and slashing criticism. Even more effective was Mr. A. J. Balfour's speech at West Calder in support of Colonel Wauchope, the Conservative candidate for Mid Lothian, which was delivered at the same time as Mr. Gladstone's speech at Penicuik. As a strategic movement, this demonstration was undoubtedly clever and effective.

The elections in Scotland did not realize the hopes or the prophecies of the Gladstonian organizers. In the last Parliament they held 46 seats, against 26 held by Unionists. The more sanguine Gladstonians expected to carry 60 seats, leaving 12 only to their opponents. The lowest estimate gave 55 seats to the Gladstonians and 17 to the Unionists, which would have been a gain of nine seats. In the net result the Gladstonians carried only 50 seats, while the Unionists retained 22—a gain to the Gladstonians of four seats only. This was a great disappointment to the party managers, who attributed their failure to the intrusion of labour candidates in Perth and in two of the constituencies in Glasgow. The fact remains, however, that they failed; and the further fact is noteworthy that they failed because of their own mismanagement. The election was made memorable by several circumstances. In the first place, every seat in the country, except the two University seats, was contested. The election differed in this respect both from that of 1885 and from that of 1886. Not only was every ordinary seat contested, but in five instances

there were three candidates for a single seat. That was due, as has been said, to the pretensions of labour candidates, and it led in three cases to the loss of the seat to the Gladstonians. The most striking feature of the elections in Scotland, however, was the falling off in the Gladstonian vote, even in cases in which they secured seats. The most conspicuous instance was that of Mid Lothian, where Mr. Gladstone's majority was reduced from 4,631 in 1885 to 690. It is true, of course, that there was no contest in Mid Lothian in 1886, so that there was no means of knowing how far the defection of the Liberal Unionists had reduced the number of Mr. Gladstone's supporters. On the other hand, the Irish vote, which went against Mr. Gladstone in 1885, was given in his favour in 1892; and it is an undoubted fact that the Gladstonians expected to win the seat by a majority of 2,000 at least. The result fell far short of their expectations, and was undoubtedly a great disappointment to them, as well as to Mr. Gladstone. In South Edinburgh there was a falling off in the Gladstonian majority of 1,150, in West Aberdeen of 2,117, in East Aberdeenshire of 800, in Ross and Cromarty of 2,300. In several cases, it is true, there was an increase in the Gladstonian vote—for example, in Paisley of 1,250, in the Montrose Burghs of 580, in the Leith Burghs of 500, and in West Fife of 2,700; but altogether there was a considerable increase in the Unionist vote. The Gladstonian majority was reduced in 15 constituencies and the Unionist majority in seven only. On the other hand, it has to be noted that the Gladstonian majorities (including the labour vote) reached a total of 53,721, while the Unionist majorities amounted in the aggregate to only 8,342, leaving to the Gladstonians a net majority (including the second count at Greenock) of 45,379.

The mistake at Greenock, just referred to, was the most peculiar incident in the Scottish elections. That burgh was one of the earliest places polled; and the result, when an-

nounced, gave Mr. Bruce, the Gladstonian, a majority of 44 over Sir Thomas Sutherland, the Unionist candidate. The result took every one, even the Gladstonians, by surprise, as in 1886 Sir Thomas Sutherland had had a majority of 697. It was by-and-by discovered that in one of the divisions of the burgh the number of votes cast exceeded considerably the total number of voters on the roll. It was obvious that a mistake had been committed. A recount of the votes was demanded by the Unionists, and to this the Gladstonians at once agreed. The result of the recount was to give Sir Thomas Sutherland a majority of 55, and the Judges of the Court of Session declared him to be duly elected. Lord Rutherfurd Clark described the blunder as "incomprehensible." It was found that bundles of 50 votes had been counted on the wrong side, that in one case 500 had been counted for 300, and that in the bundles put up for one candidate there had been votes for the other. There can be no doubt that the Gladstonians derived some advantage from their supposed victory, especially as it occurred at the beginning of the campaign. Mr. Morley, for example, made use of it in one of his speeches, declaring that "Greenock had done splendidly."

The large number of Scotsmen and Scottish members included in the new Ministry was ground of frequent remark and congratulation. Of the 17 Ministers forming the Cabinet six are connected with Scotland—namely, Mr. Gladstone, the Earl of Rosebery, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Sir George Trevelyan, and Mr. Bryce. There are five others outside of the Cabinet—namely, Sir J. Rigby, Mr. J. B. Balfour, Mr. Asher, Mr. Marjoribanks, and Mr. Edmund Robertson. In view of the large amount of stanch support which Mr. Gladstone has received from Scotland, that result was probably only what might have been looked for. At the same time it was not a little gratifying to the national pride that the Cabinet was found to bear so distinctly a Scottish complexion. It may be mentioned here that the Garter vacated by the death of the

Duke of Sutherland in October was conferred on Lord Rosebery, with the cordial approval of Scotsmen of all parties.

The only vacancy that has occurred in the representation of Scotland since the general election was caused by the appointment of Mr. Peter Esslemont, the member for East Aberdeenshire, as chairman of the Scottish Fishery Board. Mr. T. R. Buchanan, ex-M.P. for West Edinburgh, was adopted as the Gladstonian candidate, and Colonel Russell, of Aden, agreed again to contest the seat in the Unionist interest. At the general election Colonel Russell lost the seat by 1,624. In December, Mr. Buchanan was returned by a majority of 1,326. The total poll was reduced, owing to a severe snowstorm ; but, while the Unionist vote was lessened by 575, the Gladstonian vote was smaller by 873.

The meeting of the British Association in Edinburgh, in the first week of August, was quite as successful as there was any reason to expect. The period of the year was unfortunate, as at that time fashionable Edinburgh is out of town, and many of the streets in the western district of the city presented a melancholy array of windows done up in brown paper, as is usual at that season. Nevertheless, a considerable number of professors and scientific and literary men showed self-sacrifice in remaining in, or in returning to, town for the meeting, so that the visitors had no reason to complain of lack of hospitality. The opening meeting, at which Sir Archibald Geikie, an Edinburgh man, delivered the presidential address, was a brilliant function, and it was excelled by the *conversazione* given by the municipality in the Museum of Science and Art.

The remarkable success of the Scottish Volunteers at the annual meeting at Bisley in July formed one of the noteworthy features of the year. Scotsmen won the International Trophy for the fourth time in five years, and they also won the Elcho Shield. Major Pollock, of Barrhead, had an unprecedented success in winning the Queen's Prize of £250, and also both the silver and the gold medal of the Association—an achieve-

ment which makes him the most famous marksman of the century. Scotsmen also won the Prince of Wales's Prize, the Alexandra Prize, the Duke of Cambridge's Prize, the Wimbledon Martini Cup, the First Stage of the Albert Prize, the Belgian Cup for volley firing, the Grand Aggregate prize of £25, the Dominion of Canada Challenge Trophy, the M'Kinnon Challenge Cup for rapid direct volleys, the Queen's Veterans' Prize, and the two Loyd-Lindsay prizes. The amount of money prizes won by Scotsmen was somewhat less than in former years; but that was due to the fact that to some of the greatest victories, such as the International Trophy and the Elcho Shield, no money value is attached. These triumphs were signalized by a Volunteer demonstration at Edinburgh in the beginning of December, when the various trophies were committed to the custody of the Lord Provost of the city.

Scotland was particularly fortunate in the educational benefits which it received from the late Salisbury Government. First, it received in 1889 a share of the balance of Excise licences and Probate duties amounting to nearly £250,000 a year, which, under the Local Government Act, was applied in relief of fees in elementary schools. That sum, which is popularly described as the Probate Duty Grant, made elementary education free in the compulsory standards, and in some cases in all the standards. Then came the Residue Grant in 1889, consequent on the abandonment of the scheme for buying up licences under the Local Taxation Act of that year. Scotland's share of the money thus set free was £145,000 a year, and of that sum £40,000 was applied in completing the provision of free education in the elementary schools, while a further sum of £50,000 was assigned to county councils, to be applied at their option, either in relief of local rates or in providing technical education. Lastly, in 1891, when Parliament voted a sum of upwards of two millions to provide free or assisted education in England and Wales, it was felt that Scotland, which in 1889 had applied the Probate Duty Grant in relief of school fees, while

England's share had been used in relief of rates, was equitably entitled to an equivalent. Parliament therefore assigned to Scotland a sum of £265,000 a year, of which £30,000 was given to the Universities, and £60,000 for secondary education. In August, 1892, a Minute of the Education Department was issued, after a departmental inquiry had been held, and subject to the confirmation of Parliament, regulating the manner in which the sum of £60,000 a year is to be distributed. The very striking fact must, however, be noted that Scottish education owes to the late Conservative Government sums amounting in the aggregate to £380,000 a year, with a possible share in an additional £50,000 on account of technical education.

Besides the Education and Local Taxation Act already referred to, several important statutes affecting Scotland were passed by the late Parliament in its last Session. The Burgh Police (Scotland) Act provided a complete administrative code for every burgh in Scotland, except Edinburgh, Glasgow, and three other large towns that have private Acts. The Betting and Loans (Infants) Act was intended to protect young persons from the designs of money-lenders and betting men. By the Small Holdings Act, County Councils were empowered to acquire, by purchase or on lease, lands suitable for small agricultural holdings, market gardens, &c., and to sell or let out the same in lots of from one acre to 50 acres, or, if above 50 acres, not exceeding £50 in annual value. A council may also advance to a tenant desirous of purchasing his holding a sum not exceeding four-fifths of the purchase price. By the Allotments (Scotland) Act the local authority in a county or in a burgh may advance money to enable labourers to acquire allotments not exceeding one acre in extent; but this can be done only when the owners of suitable land have, in the opinion of the local authority, failed to meet the reasonable demands of the labourers by voluntary arrangement.

The returns of the decennial census, taken in April, 1891, were published during the year. They showed that the population of

Scotland had increased from 3,735,573 in 1881 to 4,033,103 in 1891, an increase of 297,530 in the decade. That was an increase of only 7·77 per cent., while during the previous decade the increase was 11·18 per cent. Not since the decade from 1851 to 1861 has the rate of increase been lower; then it was only 6 per cent. The detailed reports, issued in August, showed very clearly the causes of the decline, or at least where the falling-off chiefly occurred. They showed that while the town populations had increased by 324,446, and the village populations by 17,952, the rural population had decreased by 52,324. The important fact brought out by these returns is that the rural districts of Scotland, almost without exception, are becoming depopulated, and that the depopulation is greatest and most rapid in the most thinly populated districts. The only notable exception to this rule is found in the Island of Lewis, the population of which, including Harris, increased during the ten years from 28,339 to 30,726; but that increase can scarcely be regarded with satisfaction, as there is no corresponding increase in the means of living, or in the prosperity of the people. But over the inhabited islands as a whole there was a very marked decrease. In 1871, they contained 4·82 per cent. of the whole population · in 1881, 4·35 per cent.; and in 1891, only 3·97 per cent. A comparison of the northern portion of Scotland, which is the more sparsely peopled, with the southern, brings out a similar result. In the north the population increased in the last decade by 4·11 per cent., while in the south it increased by 10·48 per cent. The figures, as a whole, indicate a general and increasing flow of the population from the rural districts to the villages and the towns, which is precisely what might be looked for from the operation of industrial and economic laws.

If the crofters in the Highlands and islands have not been forgetful of their grievances during the year they have at least confined themselves to legitimate means of ventilating them. There have been no outrages, no destruction of property, scarcely even a case of deforcement. The nearest approach to a demonstra-

tion of force occurred at Portree, in Skye, in October, when some forty or fifty inhabitants of the town marched in procession, headed by a piper, to a farm in the neighbourhood, on which they wished to secure grazing for their cows. An open-air meeting was held on the farm, at which it was stated, on the authority of a county councillor, that not one of the tenants of the large farms around Portree was a married man. "It is a terrible state of matters," he said, "when a few bachelors monopolized the best land in these parishes, and so many children in Portree went about with pinched faces for want of milk." The Crofters Commissioners carried on their work of settling fair rents and disposing of arrears with great assiduity during the year. In the county of Ross and Cromarty, for example, they reduced rents by 25 or 30 per cent. on the average, and they cancelled from 50 to 66 per cent. of arrears. It was announced in November that the Secretary for Scotland (Sir George Trevelyan) had induced the Government to issue a Royal Commission to inquire into the lands applicable to, and available for, crofters' holdings in five Highland counties and in Orkney. The question which the new Commission will have to consider is whether any portions of the lands appropriated as deer-forests can be utilized as agricultural and pastoral farms.

In the ecclesiastical field, the noteworthy incidents of the year were the continued demonstration of the Church of Scotland against disestablishment, and the vehement opposition of the constitutional party in the Free Church to the Declaratory Act of the previous year, relaxing the terms of subscription to the Confession of Faith. At their meetings in May, the United Presbyterian Synod and the Free Church Assembly renewed their testimonies in favour of disestablishment, while the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland adhered to their view, formerly expressed, that no change should be made in the ecclesiastical relations until a free declaration had been obtained of the wishes of the people of Scotland. Not much was heard of disestablishment outside of the Church courts. In the House

of Commons, in May, Dr. Cameron submitted his annual motion on that subject. The amendment, moved by Mr. Finlay, was to the effect that disestablishment was neither desirable in itself nor in accordance with the wishes of the people of Scotland, that it was desirable that the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland should be reunited on a national basis, and that the endowments should continue to be appropriated to religious purposes. Dr. Cameron's motion was rejected by a majority of 56. In connexion with the Declaratory Act of the Free Church, many important meetings were held during the year at Inverness and elsewhere, from which it appears that the Highland ministers and laymen of the Free Church are determined to oppose the adoption of the Act by every means in their power.

The Scottish Universities Commission has been busily engaged during the year in preparing and issuing ordinances for graduation in Arts, in Medicine, and in Science; for the University education of women; and on other subjects connected with the administration and government of the Universities. The graduation ordinances were opposed by the University Councils of Edinburgh and Glasgow, on the ground that they were too conservative; but their efforts to induce the House of Commons to suspend the ordinances with a view to their amendment met with signal failure. Though the ordinance on the University education of women is considered to be needlessly hampered with restrictions, it is admitted to be a great and welcome step in advance, and under it women have now been admitted to University privileges, on the same terms as men in the Faculty of Arts. Women have not yet been admitted to the medical classes or to medical degrees; but in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary two wards—one medical, one surgical—have been set aside for their clinical instruction, and full advantage has been taken of these.

In trade affairs the chief event of the year was a crisis in the Scottish mineral oil trade, which had a prejudicial effect on several of the leading companies. The crisis was a direct result

of American competition. Arrangements were made in the early part of the year with American producers, under which the production and importation of wax were to be restricted ; but it did not work in accordance with expectation, and the Scottish candlemakers refused to contract for winter supplies at the current quotations, with the result that stocks accumulated, and business was brought to a standstill. The shipping trade, and consequently shipbuilding, was in a depressed state during the year. This reacted unfavourably both on the wages of the artisans in shipbuilding yards and on the wages of seamen. In April the Glasgow shipowners reduced the rate of wages in the North Atlantic trade from £4 15s. to £4 5s. a month. At the same time the steel makers in the west of Scotland reduced the wages of their workmen by 10 per cent., a reduction which affected 5,000 men. A plague of voles (a species of field mouse) infesting the farms in several agricultural districts of Scotland and causing great damage, particularly to hill pastures, caused much anxiety to farmers during the year. The Board of Agriculture appointed a Commission to inquire into the cause of the plague and to suggest remedies. Mr. Gardner, the new Minister of Agriculture, visited Scotland towards the end of the year, and made personal inquiry into this and other agricultural questions.

IRELAND.

THE ghastly crime which marked the close of the year and marred its crowning festival has given such a shock to the public and so engrossed attention that it is hard to take a calm review of the general condition of the country and to keep politics out of view. This, however, is not the place to discuss them, except so far as they bear upon commercial and social prospects, which are the proper subject of this article. The year 1892 has, on the whole, been rather disappointing in its results. It has but partially redeemed the early promise which it gave of improvement and prosperity. Tried by the most certain tests of success or failure it is found wanting in some important respects, and leaves but few lasting memcrials of satisfactory progress compared with the record of 1891. There are, however, many favourable circumstances and hopeful signs which should encourage every earnest worker to enter upon the duties of the new year with renewed determination to master every difficulty which stands in his way.

It is something to note with satisfaction that the health of the country is better than it has usually been at this period in former years. This is the more satisfactory on account of the poverty of districts along the western coasts from north to south, and affords evidence that the cry of impending famine which was raised some months ago with very doubtful sincerity has not been justified by experience. The amount of pauperism shown in the Poor Law returns is not greater, but rather less than in former years.

The fisheries afford so much employment to the coast population, and are so large a source of national wealth, that they claim the first consideration in noticing the prospects of the country. They are to be considered in two aspects—namely, the deep sea fisheries and the salmon fisheries. As regards the deep sea fisheries, the accounts are fairly satisfactory, but the take has not been, in some respects, as large as that of the previous year. According to the latest statistics which have been received, the total capture shows a decrease of 50,000cwt., with a corresponding decrease in the values of £40,000. In the take of prime fish, soles and turbot, there has been a slight increase. The most noticeable falling off is in regard to hake, which is about half that of 1891. The value in 1892 was only about £10,000. In cod the falling off has been about 7,000cwt. Its value in 1892 was £15,200, compared with £17,000 in 1891. With respect to mackerel, which is the most important of the Irish fisheries, the available figures show a total of 284,000 for 1892, against 299,000 in 1891. These figures do not indicate an actual decline in productiveness, but may be explained by the fact that the local fishermen having put an end to the engagement system hitherto existing, by which they worked their boats for certain buyers for a stipulated sum, thinking they could earn more money by fishing independently, the buyers did not attend in such numbers or in such places as heretofore, but went to where there was a probability that there would be a fleet of boats and they would be more likely to obtain supplies. The result was that the area of this fishery became very much confined. The value of the capture in 1892 was £115,000, compared with £144,000 in 1891. Their action recoiled injuriously upon the fishermen, as they had no market for what they caught, and at Ballybunnion 20,000 mackerel were destroyed as there was no sale for them.

Next in importance is the herring fishery. At Ardglass and Kilkeel, on the north-east coast, which were formerly most prosperous, but of late years have been declining, there was a

further decline in 1892, while at Kinsale the quantity taken has more than doubled. The value of the fishing in 1892 was £29,000 against £40,000 in 1891. Oysters, although a comparatively small item, show a considerable increase, the value in 1892 being £1,900 against £1,000 in 1891. While, however, the take of fish generally, as above indicated, is not quite satisfactory, there are other matters connected with the industry which afford some grounds of hope. A number of curing stations have been established along the west and south-west coasts, and markets for fish have been opened in various places where they were required. Again a new and most promising development has taken place in the Arran fishery. In the review of the fisheries for 1891 reference was made to the employment of a Norwegian to give instructions in the curing of fish. The results have been very satisfactory, as accounts from America testify. With regard to the herring and mackerel fishery an estrangement exists between the Irish and Scotch fishermen in consequence of the practice of the latter to begin the herring fishing earlier in the season than the Irish, who believe that it destroys the young mackerel. The Inspectors of Fisheries have held some inquiries at Kinsale, and further investigations will be held in Scotland in order to afford the Scotch fishermen an opportunity of stating their views. It is hoped that an arrangement will be entered into which will establish more friendly relations between the two bodies of fishermen. The Fishery Commissioners have no power to make regulations on the subject, as the fishing takes place outside the territorial limits. With respect to the salmon fisheries the reports, generally speaking, are satisfactory, especially those from the more important districts. It is interesting to know that there is an almost entire absence of the disease known as the salmon fungus.

As agriculture is almost the only industry for the rural population its condition and prospects are of great importance. Ireland has shared the depression which is so bitterly felt in England, but not to the same extent, the extent of

tillage being limited and the land devoted chiefly to dairy farming and cattle breeding. The total number of acres under crops last year was 4,884,784, being a net increase of 66,403 acres including meadow and clover. The total under grass is 10,250,801, a decrease of 47,853 acres. In cereal crops there was a decrease of 5,526 acres under wheat, an increase of 10,911 under oats, a decrease of 2,759 acres under barley, a decrease of 271 acres under bere and rye, which are little grown, and a decrease of 302 acres under beans and peas, showing a net increase of 2,053 acres under cereal crops. In the extent under grass crops there was a net decrease of 16,563 acres, including 13,390 acres less under potatoes. The extent under flax was 70,642 acres, a decrease of 4,023. Under hay there were 624,095 acres, an increase of 28,486. The loss occasioned by the deficiency in acreage under crops was, to some extent, compensated for by increased yield, the average produce per statute acre being higher in the case of all crops, especially oats and barley. The returns of live stock show a total of 4,531,702 cattle, an increase of 82,514 over last year's total; sheep 4,827,702, an increase of 105,089; horses and mules, 635,486, an increase of 14,007. On the other hand, the total number of pigs, 1,115,888, shows a decrease of 251,824. The total number of poultry—to which more attention is given by the small farmers—15,335,581, shows an increase of 59,453.

The fall in the price of cattle and live stock generally, except horses and pigs, has been severely felt by the farmers, who, in many cases, have had to sell at a loss; but there is a considerable set-off in the increased number.

The official returns made up to December 24, inclusive, of the exports of live stock give the following totals compared with the year 1891 :—

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.	Horses.
1891... ...	630,802	893,175	503,584	33,396
1892... ...	617,494	1,073,117	492,088	32,642

One of the most remarkable facts in connexion with the

farming interests is the increase in dairy cattle, which amounts to 40,000. The farmers in the south of Ireland are at length awakened to the importance of improving the quality of Irish butter and the adoption of new methods with that view. There appeared to be some doubt a year ago as to the success of creameries, but the adoption of the co-operative system has dispelled all fear on the subject and given a fresh impetus to the movement. The number of creameries established on this principle has so largely increased that the value of the butter sold in the past year, chiefly in the English markets, amounted to £130,000, and it is expected that in the next year it will be over £200,000. They are also adopting a system of direct agency, which will eliminate the middlemen and enable the butter-makers to compete more successfully with the foreigner. In some places the co-operative creamery movement is restoring more cordial relations between the farmers and the local gentry, many of the former refusing to take shares unless the gentry join, as they have no confidence in their own capacity to engage in such a business.

Connected with the subject of agriculture the land question naturally arises. This is still a subject of disquietude, but much has been done to settle it by legislation during the last few years. The great experiment of converting tenants into tenant proprietors is being carried out by a Land Commission under two different Acts of Parliament—the Ashbourne Act of 1885 and Mr. Balfour's Act of 1891. Under the former Act and the Act of 1888, which extended its provisions, a sum of £10,000,000 was placed at the disposal of the Land Commission to be advanced in cash to the purchaser and be repayable by an annuity at 4 per cent. for 49 years. Of this annuity £3 2s. 6d. per cent. represented interest and 17s. 6d. repayment of capital. The Commission, when satisfied of the adequacy of the security, were empowered to advance the whole purchase-money, retaining in each case a deposit of not less than one-fifth until one-fifth of the principal should have

been repaid—that is to say, for 17½ years if the repayment were made by the annuity and not by an immediate cash payment. At the end of that period it was to be handed over to the vendor, and while retained he was to receive interest at 3 per cent.

Under the Act of 1891 the funds available for the work of the Commission were increased to £33,000,000, the advances, however, to be made in guaranteed Land Stock, bearing interest at 2¾ per cent., and to be repayable in 49 years, as under the Ashbourne Act, by a 4 per cent. annuity. Of this percentage, £2 15s. represents interest, 5s. a contribution to the guarantee fund, and £1 the sinking fund for repayment of the principal. By the 8th section of the Act, however, it is provided that in cases of the advance of the whole or more than three-fourths of the purchase-money where the advance for the purchase of a holding is less than 20 times the existing rent, less the landlord's proportion of taxes, the purchaser is to pay by way of "insurance money" for the first five years, not an annuity of 4 per cent. on the advance, but an annuity equivalent to 80 per cent. of his former net rent. There is a provision in the 42d section which enables the tenant after the advance has been sanctioned to apply to the Land Commission to ascertain the annual value of his holding, and in such case the annuity for the five years will be assessed upon the annual values mentioned and not upon the existing rent. This was intended to provide for cases, which are numerous, where judicial rents have not been fixed or where the rent nominally payable has not been exacted, or, in fact, in cases where the existing rent is in excess of the fair letting value. This provision is a cumbrous one and retards the working of the Act. The feeling of unrest and uncertainty caused by the change of Government and the fears or hopes of further legislation as to land in Ireland, as well as the depression in the prices of cattle and sheep, has naturally impeded to some extent the successful operation of the Act of 1891 as compared with the admitted success of the Act of 1885. It may be remembered that immediately after the passing of

the Act of 1891 the Land Commission gave notice that the applications received under the Ashbourne Act exceeded the £10,000,000 placed at their disposal by nearly £300,000, so that the proceedings now being carried out under that Act are the completion of contracts for sale entered into before August, 1891. From the passing of the Act of 1885 up to December 31, 1891, there were applications by about 29,335 tenants for advances amounting to £11,378,932. Of these, applications to the amount of £1,017,348 were rejected, so that the net number of applications in January, 1892, was 26,617 for advances to the amount of £10,361,584. Of these, it appears from the published monthly returns that they sanctioned, to the close of the year 1891, 22,582 applications for £8,958,535, and of this sum they have actually issued £7,149,563 to 17,310 purchasers. In 1892 they appear, during the 11 months ending November 30 last, to have sanctioned 2,252 applications for £697,827, and to have paid out £1,023,743 to 2,882 purchasers. During the month of December they paid out a further sum of about £79,000, making a total issue in the present year of about £1,102,743. The applications received in December were for advances to the amount of £4,000. The loans sanctioned in the year amounted to about £400,600, and over £90,000 worth of guaranteed stock has been issued. Mr. Morley stated in a recent speech at Newcastle that the repayments of the instalments are most satisfactory. This statement is confirmed by accounts from other sources, which show that out of £156,133, the half-yearly gale, which fell due on the 1st of November last and was payable by 18,560 purchasers, payments have been made to an amount of £128,989; and as to antecedent arrears, out of £1,070,285, which accrued due since the passing of the Act of 1885, there is only a total of £3,680 unpaid. With respect to the 13th section of the Act of 1891, which provides for the restoration of evicted tenants to their holdings on certain conditions, with the exception of a comparatively small number of isolated cases on different estates, chiefly in Kerry and Cork,

there have been only three estates on which there were any considerable reinstatements—the Ponsonby estate, where 104 agreements have been entered into, the Tottenham estate, and the Creagh estate.

One of the most important acts of remedial legislation passed by the last Government was the constitution of the Congested Districts Board and its investiture with very extensive powers to mitigate as far as possible the causes of the chronic distress which prevailed in some localities. They have been working very zealously without any noise or show, and are laying the foundations of many works which, it is hoped, will be of permanent utility. The Board is divided into four committees, composed of gentlemen of practical experience, who devote their attention to the distinct subjects of industries, fisheries, land, and finance. Nothing definite has been done with respect to migration, but it is understood that there are several projects under consideration.

In the Royal Dublin Society the Board have found most cordial and useful assistance. This society, which now numbers over 2,000 members, has employed agricultural instructors to teach the people how to till their land and manage their farms, and it has offered considerable prizes for the best kept holdings and given great facilities for introducing better breeds of horses and cattle. It has for some years carried on a series of experiments to test the qualities of potatoes as regards soundness and general fitness for the country. It also gives advice as to the quality of agricultural seeds. The Government has placed in its hands an annual sum of £5,000 to promote the breeding of good horses, and this fund has been administered with great judgment. The society expends, in addition to this £5,000, for which its council are trustees, income of its own amounting to about £40,000. A large proportion of this is derived from the receipts at the annual horse show, which is the greatest in the kingdom and attracts visitors from all parts of Europe.

The change in the constitution of the Board of Works has in no way retarded the steady progress of that department. From time immemorial it has been the custom to appoint as Commissioners of Public Works Royal or civil engineers. A radical change has now taken place in the *personnel* of the Board. Within the last year and a-half two vacancies, caused by the retirement under the age clause of two civil engineers, were filled up by the appointment of experienced financial officials. The immediate effect of this change has, of course, imposed additional duty and responsibility on the professional part of the staff, and so far the new departure has not been detrimental to the public service. In one respect it is a subject for congratulation that the gross advances on loan made by the Board for the year, about £404,000, have not been so great as for 1891, when the total reached £660,000, the largest item of which, £270,000, was for seed potatoes required during a period of extreme poverty in poor districts. The pecuniary requirements under the Public Health Acts, reaching a total of nearly £101,000, or some £13,000 more than in the preceding year, head the long list of disbursements, secured on rates, for waterworks, sewerage, public lighting, municipal buildings, people's parks, and other works of local improvement. Next in amount are the advances to boards of guardians of over 90 unions under the Labourers' Acts, amounting in the year to nearly £98,000, as compared with £121,000 in 1891. About 70 unions seem reluctant to avail themselves of this cheap and ready means of improving the condition of the labourers ; however, over £1,100,000 has been expended in the improved cottages which are dotted over the majority of the districts. Loans to tenants for the improvement of their holdings show a falling off of from £42,000 to £39,000 ; the most popular item for which loans are sought being hay-barns. The moneys (£35,000) borrowed by companies, urban authorities, and individuals to provide housing for the working classes in towns have been nearly double the amount issued in 1891 ; the total expenditure since the commencement of these issues exceeds

£600,000, resulting in improved accommodation to over 7,000 families. These loans are secured on the undertakings, some of which, it appears, are not turning out financially successful, and the arrears are considerable. The issues to landed proprietors for improvements, £32,000, are only a couple of thousand more than they were in 1891. Considering the class of work for which this money is issued, including drainage, planting, farm buildings, and cottages, the applications seem small. Only two loans for planting were granted in the year, while the total amount expended since 1868 under the advantageous terms offered by the Board has only reached about £26,000. The amount lent for addition and extension of lunatic asylums was over £27,000, or some £2,000 less than in 1891. For the acquirement or erection of glebes £17,000, or £3,000 more than in the previous year, was lent. The advances for National School teachers' residences have been £11,500, or £1,500 less than in 1891 ; while under the head of miscellaneous items, such as post roads and bridges, industrial schools, harbours, arterial drainage, training colleges and schools, and dispensary houses, the total advances amount to £43,000, as compared with £33,000 in 1891. Under the Seed Act of 1890, the amount advanced was £270,383. Of this the first instalment of £120,000 became repayable on August 1, 1892, and only £9,000 is in arrear. The total repayments in the year on loan services reach, including the foregoing amount, £736,000, which is in itself an evidence that the improvements are not unproductive. It is generally admitted that the produce of the harvest of 1892 was satisfactory, but foreign and Colonial competition has seriously depressed the markets. The work of completing the network of railways designed to open up the remotest districts has suffered no serious check, and the various projects are well in hand. The making of these lines has within the year circulated in the poorest districts in Ireland the sum of £225,000, and it is estimated that a further sum of £445,000 will be contributed by the Government for their com-

pletion. The expenditure on sundry new works and repairs and furnishing buildings under charge of the Board amounted to £226,000, and the improvement of the Shannon drainage to £5,500. The amount expended on various services for which votes of Parliament are not taken, such as navigations, national monuments, Reproductive Loan Fund, sea fisheries, and Galway Harbour, and in which expenditure is incurred on behalf of other departments, such as Land Commission, Board of Admiralty, Board of Trade, &c., amounted to £46,000.

The general trade of the country has experienced the depressing effects of an unfavourable reaction in England, but has been maintained, nevertheless, with steadiness. Credit is limited, owing to the unsettled condition of the country and to the continued apprehension of political changes. The business done, therefore, is marked by great caution. As a natural result of this policy, there have been few commercial failures of any consequence, but some two or three fraudulent bankruptcies of small traders in the provinces are the subjects of impending prosecutions. The most notable example of dishonest dealing was that of Mr. F. Du Bedat, the stockbroker and president of the Stock Exchange, who is at present undergoing a sentence of penal servitude. The small traders in the country shared the disappointment and loss which the farmers, their best customers, suffered from the low prices of cattle, while the banks kept a tight rein upon their financial dealings. These several causes have operated adversely upon the railway traffic, and the results for the year show a decrease of £47,000. The official returns for the first six months showed a total of £1,459,000, which was less by £51,647 than in 1891. There has been a partial recovery in the past six months. The banks have done a safe and generally satisfactory, though comparatively restricted, business, and their dividends have been well maintained. The linen trade of Belfast and the North of Ireland has been fairly satisfactory, the volume of business done being about the same as in 1891, but the profits

rather less. The millowners have had to pay rather higher prices for foreign flax without a corresponding advance being obtainable in yarns. Weaving factories have, on the whole, been fully employed without any undue accumulation of stocks, but in consequence of the great advance in yarns, with a lower price for cloth, powerloom manufacturers—especially those employed in plain fabrics—have not been able to show the satisfactory results of past years. Hand-loom weaving is gradually dying out, and for years past the workers have been leaving the country, owing to the small remuneration obtainable for their labour. During the last six months wages have been exceedingly low, as there has been a much smaller demand for both linen and cambric handkerchiefs. A very large business has been done in all kinds of damasks, towels, tucks, and other household goods,almost every loom being kept in full swing. In collars, cuffs, and pinafores, also, the business continues prosperous, and it gives increased employment every year in Belfast and the surrounding country. The greatest disappointment, however, has been experienced in the manufacture of hand-embroidered handkerchiefs, in which formerly there was a most profitable trade. The Swiss have been for 18 months doing this work by machinery, and have brought it to great perfection at a very much reduced cost. The M'Kinley Tariff has hampered the trade with America, but manufacturers and merchants are looking forward hopefully to a modification of its terms. The shipbuilding yards in Belfast have been fairly busy, but the trade has not been as brisk as in the previous year. In Derry, where it appeared to be making way, the yard of Mr. Biggar has been closed. Other local industries, however, are holding their own. The return of the Port of Dublin shows a very large increase in tonnage during the year. At the end of 1891 the total was 1,765,292 tons; last year the total increased by about 75,000 tons. A new feature in the American import trade is the fact that there is now direct communication with

the American ports by powerful steamers bringing cargoes of flour to the quays, such as frequently were sent to Liverpool, and thence brought by cross-Channel steamers. The exports of porter and whisky during the first six months showed a falling-off, but during the last three months they have shown a considerable recovery. The returns of revenue at the Port of Dublin, taken from the Customs daily list, show the receipts for the past year to have been £917,000, or an increase of £6,000 on 1891. The tonnage inwards of the port for 1892 is 2,350,000 tons, or an increase of 10,000. The new fishery school at Ringsend is nearly completed, but the introduction during past years of steam trawlers threatens to revolutionize the conditions under which the Dublin fishing industry is conducted.

THE COLONIES.

OUR colonial empire has now reached a stage at which it is scarcely possible that it can undergo any serious expansion. Even in Africa there is only a comparatively small area of the continent which is not in one form or another appropriated by the great Powers of Europe, and the function of our statesmen in the future will be to consolidate and preserve, rather than to add to, the British Empire. In 1892 a few unconsidered trifles have been all that we have added to the tale of our colonial possessions. The Aldabra Islands in the Indian Ocean (nominally British for some time), Gilbert Island, and three other tiny islands in the Pacific are the sum total of our acquisitions—these Pacific islands probably being acquired with a view to the establishment of cable communication between Vancouver and Australia, a desirable object both from a strategical and a commercial point of view. In Africa a boundary commission has here and there marked out with more precision the limits of our spheres ; but the scramble, except perhaps in the neighbourhood of Lake Chad, is at an end, and we are now able to sit down and count our gains, reckon what they have cost us, and come to some sort of a decision as to what we are to do with them now we have got them. Meanwhile, if the year that has just closed has seen but little addition to the area of the Empire, we are able to congratulate ourselves that it has not been wanting in signs and indications that there is

growing up both in the mother country and in the colonies a truer ideal of Imperial life and a deeper sense of the responsibility that rests on all alike to preserve and maintain the British Empire, in Lord Rosebery's fine phrase, as "the greatest secular agency for good now known to mankind." At home the Imperial Federation League, in pursuance of the special objects of its constitution, has formulated a plan for the establishment of a council of Imperial defence, on which shall sit representatives of all our self-governing colonies, and to which shall be intrusted the administration of a fund contributed by the various members of the Empire. It is proposed to submit this scheme to a conference of colonial statesmen, whom the Government will early in the year be asked to invite to the capital of the Empire for the purpose of discussing this and kindred proposals. Meanwhile in Australia the question of intercolonial federation has not slept; the veteran Sir Henry Parkes and Mr. Barton in New South Wales have emphasized their support of the proposal which shall give to the Australasian continent that unity which it now lacks; Mr. Reid, the Opposition leader, has announced his adhesion to the federation policy; and in the other colonies public opinion is apparently being educated up to the point at which a fresh conference might fairly be expected to arrive at some definite and practical plan acceptable to the great majority of Australians. Newfoundland still maintains her separate existence, but her relations with Canada have been the subject of serious discussion during the year, and if the perennial difficulty of the French shore were once removed there are not wanting signs that the admission of our oldest colony into the Dominion might become a question of practical politics.

In Australia 1892 will be remembered as one of the darkest in the history of the continent—a year of commercial depression, of financial deficits, of damaged credit; in short, a year in which the collapse that follows inevitably on inflation has reached, let us hope, its extreme limit. For some years, tempted by

cheap money in London, by the consciousness of vast untouched resources, and driven on by the remorseless cry of the working-man elector for more work, Australian statesmen gaily followed the primrose path of borrowing, until the collapse of the land boom, tightness of money in Europe in consequence of financial troubles of our own, and other causes, conspired to awake in the breast of the British investor the suspicion that colonial securities were not the gilt-edged paper he had fondly supposed them to be. As a natural consequence colonial Treasurers have been pulled up sharp, deficits have had to be faced, and measures taken to restore the financial equilibrium. It has been a sharp lesson, not perhaps an unwholesome one, and with at least a wholesome moral. The fortunate thing is that neither the lesson nor the moral has, there is every reason to believe, been thrown away. Australia is the home of men of British race who are neither too proud nor too stupid to learn the lesson of their own misfortunes. In every colony a policy of rigid economy has been inaugurated, administrative expenditure has been cut down, the necessity for managing the railways on business principles and not as a part of the political machine has been more clearly conceded, and a halt has been called in the expenditure on public works. The depression in the public finances has been attended by a corresponding depression among private financial institutions. A number of banks and building societies, established when land prices were on the rise, have collapsed during the year, and in some cases have involved heavy losses on depositors in Great Britain, thus further damaging the credit of Australia in this country. The great strike of shearers in Queensland in 1891 found a parallel in the strike of the Broken Hill miners in 1892. The importance of the Broken Hill strike is not to be measured by the mere money loss which the bitter and protracted struggle between the company and the union involved, though the loss to the mineowners, to the men, and to the State was enormous. What really was involved was the right of the owners to some share in the management of their own property. It was

a struggle against tyranny—the tyranny of labour highly organized and efficiently drilled ; and it is hardly too much to say that the contest was watched with interest all over the world. Fears were entertained lest the Ministry of Sir George Dibbs should be unable to withstand the pressure of the Labour members ; but when the hour of trial came these fears were fortunately seen to be unfounded. Disturbances in the Broken Hill district resulted in the arrest of some of the strike leaders who had been the ringleaders in the riots. The release of the men arrested was promptly demanded by an organized mob acting under the control of the Labour leaders ; but Sir George Dibbs was firm. He declined to interfere with the course of justice, and in due time the men were tried, and those who were found guilty were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. Since their conviction an attempt has been made to induce the Executive to release them, but unsuccessfully ; and it is not too much to say that the correct and courageous attitude of the Dibbs Ministry has been everywhere welcomed as a proof that Australia, while willing to recognize to the fullest extent the rights of the working man, is not willing to become the bond slave of a machine-made Labour party. In connexion with the Broken Hill mines, a note may be made in passing of the discussion between the Treasury and the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria as to the coinage of silver at the branch mints at Sydney and Melbourne. New importance has been given to the question by the enormously increased production of silver in Australia, and by the continued fall in the gold price of the white metal, so that it was not unreasonable, as the authorities in Downing-street freely admitted, that the Australian Governments most concerned should seek to set off against the loss incurred in the coinage of gold the profit made on the coinage of silver token coins. The Treasury, in a memorandum dated the 17th of last August, stated very clearly its position in the matter, and, so far as the Home Government is concerned, there is really no reason why the privilege of coining silver should not

be at once accorded to the Sydney and Melbourne mints. But difficulties have arisen in Australia as to the adjustment of the rights of the various colonies, and the question is therefore one of those which awaits a final solution in the new year.

Another Australian question, involving graver issues, which must also be carried over to the new year's account, is that of the future constitution of the colony of Queensland. At one time it seemed probable that we might be able to place the settlement of this difficulty to the credit of 1892, but Sir Samuel Griffith's well-meant compromise came to grief in the Legislative Council. The Bill which the Premier introduced into the Legislative Assembly last July proposed, instead of the complete separation demanded by the North and Central Queensland Separation Leagues, to give local self-government to the different divisions of the colony by the creation of three provincial Governments, with separate Executives and Legislatures, for the Northern, Central, and Southern provinces of Queensland. There was still to be a separate Government for the united provinces, which should have charge of the common interests of all the three provinces, and which, in particular, should levy Customs duties as at present. During the passage of the Bill through the Lower House a number of amendments were carried, the most important being that which reduced the number of provinces created from three to two by the elimination of the proposed central province. This amendment was accepted by the Government, and in its final form the Bill was sent up to the Legislative Council, only, however, to be rejected by the nominee Chamber. Its rejection was the signal for an immediate revival of the agitation for complete separation, and, notwithstanding the assurance of the Government that the same Bill will be introduced in the next Parliament, the separation leagues are preparing for a vigorous campaign both in the colony and in London in favour of carving three entirely independent colonies out of the present colony. If,

however, the future constitution of Queensland still remains an open question, the same can scarcely be said of another Queensland question which during the last 12 months has received no small share of attention. Round the Kanaka—the native labourer from certain islands in the Pacific—passions have raged as of old when the iniquities of "black-birding" roused many excellent men and women to indignant protests against the treatment by white men of an inferior race. There is no need to doubt the genuineness of the conviction which inspired the latest attempts to put a stop altogether to the employment of natives of the Pacific islands in the sugar plantations of Northern Queensland; only this must be said—that the agitation has been based largely upon ignorance, and still more largely upon the assumption that what may once have existed still continues to exist. Early in the year new and stringent regulations as to recruiting among the Pacific islands were published by the Queensland Government, and already there is ample evidence that the importation of labourers, as now carried on, is conducive not only to the prosperity of the colony, but to the well-being of the labourers themselves. It is only fair to recall the fact that the Queensland planters have for a long time past protested against the stories as to cruelty and harsh treatment with which it has been sought to rouse the passions of the British public against the Kanaka labour traffic; and these protests have been justified by the result of the discussion to which the new regulations gave birth. To go no further than the testimony of the Bishop of Tasmania, at one time a strong opponent of the traffic, Dr. Montgomery, as the result of a visit to many of the islands from which the supply of labourers is drawn, gave it as his deliberate opinion that the labourers derived substantial benefits from their period of service on the plantations, and our own Special Correspondent in Australia has recently borne striking and abundant testimony to the same effect. In New

Zealand the year has been mainly remarkable for the number of experimental measures which Mr. Ballance's Government have proposed and have failed to carry, and for the difference which arose between the new Governor, Lord Glasgow, and the Cabinet as to the appointment of additional members to the Legislative Council. The Ministry were desirous that the balance of parties in the Upper Chamber should be rectified by the nomination of 12 additional members. The Governor declined to nominate more than eight, and the matter was referred to the Colonial Office. Without committing himself to any opinion on the constitutional question involved, Lord Ripon advised Lord Glasgow to yield, and the Ministry marked their victory by nominating four working men to the Council—a new departure in colonial politics, and one which will be watched with interest.

The early months of the year in Canada witnessed another act in the sad drama of official corruption which had darkened the history of the Dominion during 1891. It was an act of retribution. Mr. Honoré Mercier, Premier of the Province of Quebec, had succeeded in making for himself, as head of the Nationalist or Ultramontane party in the province, a position of unexampled strength. But the breath of suspicion fell upon him ; commissions were appointed to investigate specific charges of corruption ; and the Lieutenant-Governor, after receiving a preliminary report from the Commission of Judges, dismissed the Premier. Mr. Angers's action was made the subject of fierce denunciation, and before the electors Mr. Mercier, with consummate judgment, sought to make the issue between himself and the Lieutenant-Governor turn on the constitutional aspect of Mr. Angers's conduct and its alleged interference with provincial rights, instead of on the charges made against himself. In March the elections were held, and the result was the confirmation by an overwhelming majority of the action of the Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Mercier's majority had been transformed into an insignificant minority, his sup-

porters in the new House of Assembly at most numbering 17, as against 55 Conservatives who support Mr. de Boucherville. Everywhere throughout the Dominion the result was received as a national demonstration in favour of official purity. The Liberal organs of public opinion declined to accept the elections as a defeat, although the Liberal leaders were unable to shut their eyes to the injury which Mr. de Boucherville's victory did to the party prospects in the stronghold of the Opposition in the Federal House. Wisely or unwisely, the new Ministry were not content with their success at the polls. Mr. Mercier was indicted with some of his associates for misappropriation of the public funds. It is unnecessary to follow in detail the history of the trial. The grand jury found true bills upon some of the charges made against the ex-Premier and ignored others. Eventually the petty jury found the defendant not guilty, and Mr. Mercier was discharged. It is easy to be wise after the event. As things have turned out, the Ministry would perhaps have done more wisely had they left Mr. Mercier overwhelmed by the condemnation of the men who had formerly been his most ardent supporters, and had not attempted to fix him with that clear and indisputable personal guilt which alone will meet the stern requirements of the criminal law. But even his acquittal cannot reinstate Mr. Mercier or infuse new life into the party he has wrecked—a party which relied for its sustenance on the prejudices of race and religion and the smaller jealousies of provincial ambitions and aspirations. The geographical position of Canada makes the relations of the Dominion with her powerful neighbour to the south a matter of supreme importance. During the period under review there have not been wanting matters of dispute between the United States and the Federal Government, though nothing has occurred to seriously threaten the neighbourly relations between the two countries. The M'Kinley tariff, which, it was anticipated, might force the hand of the Dominion and bring it to its knees, begging for a commercial union with the States, has certainly

not been without a serious effect on the trade between the two countries. Returns recently sent to us by our Ottawa Correspondent show that during the past fiscal year the trade with the United States amounted to only $33,830,000, as compared with $41,000,000 for the fiscal year immediately preceding. But this decrease in trade with the United States is not reflected in the general returns for the same period. The total exports have risen from $98,417,000 to $113,963,000, and the total imports from $120,000,000 to $127,406,000. These figures are in themselves extremely gratifying, but a still more gratifying feature is the large increase in the trade between the Dominion and the mother country, the exports to the United Kingdom being $65,000,000 last year as compared with $49,250,000 the previous year. Canada has thus, when shut out by hostile tariffs from the markets nearest her doors, simply sought and found new markets for her produce; and it would be a remarkable illustration of the uncertainties of political prophecy and of the irony of events if the very Act which it was confidently predicted would force Canada to seek a commercial union with the States, followed inevitably by annexation, should in reality bind the Dominion in closer bonds of common interest to the mother country. All the indications, indeed, point to Canada's having entered on an era of commercial prosperity; and it is worthy of note that the new Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Mackenzie Bowell, looks forward to a great development in trade between Canada and the Australasian colonies—an object which will be materially advanced when better and more direct means of communication are established between these two portions of the Empire. The Behring Sea has again been the subject of constant communications between the various Governments, and at last we may be permitted to hope that the standing dispute about the seal fishery between Canada and the United States is in train for settlement. Early in the present year the Behring Sea arbitration tribunal will meet in Paris, and its decision will, it

is anticipated, set at rest the questions which have now for so long been a constant cause of irritation between the two great nations of the North American continent. The treaty concluded by Lord Salisbury with Mr. Blaine provides that the arbitration tribunal shall consist of seven arbitrators, two of whom were to be named by Queen Victoria, two by the President of the United States, one by M. Carnot, one by King Humbert, and one by King Oscar of Sweden and Norway. Meanwhile, the protracted negotiations between the Imperial Government, the Dominion Government, and the Government of the United States had scarcely resulted in the conclusion of a treaty before a profound sensation of indignation and irritation was aroused in Canada, and, indeed, in this country, by the news that a number of Canadian sealers had been seized in the North Pacific Ocean by a Russian cruiser, and vessels and crews taken to Petropaulovsky on the coast of Kamtchatka. In each case the captain of the vessel seized had protested that at the time of the seizure they were not within Russian waters. Their protests were, however, unavailing, Captain de Levron, the commander of the Russian cruiser, alleging his right to seize any vessel with a sealing outfit even within a thousand miles of the Russian coast. Under threats of being sent to Vladivostock and there court-martialled and sent to Siberia, De Levron compelled the captains to sign a declaration that they had been sealing in Russian waters. At Petropaulovsky the treatment to which the crews of the captured vessels were subjected was of the most atrocious description. They were left without any but the most filthy and inadequate shelter, and were dependent for the scanty food that kept them from starvation on the kindness of a local store-keeper. The details of the seizure and of the subsequent inhuman treatment of the crews added to the indignation which the original news of the seizure of the vessels had excited. The whole incident is now the subject of diplomatic communications between the British and Russian Governments, and is certainly one which cannot be

allowed to close without due apology and compensation. An attempt was made to throw the blame personally upon Captain de Levron. It was reported that that officer was insane, but he has recently returned to St. Petersburg in full possession of his faculties.

On the other side of the Continent, the dispute between the Dominion and Newfoundland has been settled by the adoption of a *modus vivendi*, whereby the *status* of 1889 is restored. The differential duties against Canada have been removed, and this ill-starred quarrel between neighbours and relations has been put an end to. There have even been during the year discussions of an informal character as to the terms on which Newfoundland might quit her position of isolation and join the Dominion. Apart from the absence in the older colony of a system of local government such as prevails in Canada, the main hindrance to union seems to be found in the existence of the perennial difficulty as to the French shore, which still remains without any permanent solution. The root of the whole matter is, of course, the presence of France at all on the Newfoundland shore, and the only permanent solution would be for Great Britain to buy up the French rights, though it is extremely doubtful if France, whose *amour propre* is involved in the strict maintenance of her rights in an English colony, would consent to sell or if Great Britain would consent to buy at the price which France is certain to put upon her privileges. In the meantime, the attempt to refer to a commission of arbitration the minor question of the right of France to take lobsters and to erect lobster factories on the "French shore" still hangs fire. In the beginning of April the *modus vivendi* originally agreed on for the fishery season of 1890, and renewed for the season of 1891, was again renewed for the season of 1892 by an exchange of Notes between the British and French Governments; but the rejection in the following month by the Newfoundland House of Assembly of the French Shore Bill for establishing a jurisdiction upon the "treaty

shore " for the execution of the treaties between France and England raised fresh difficulties in the way of the commission of arbitration, and throws upon the Imperial Legislature the responsibility of providing during the coming Session adequate tribunals by which the treaty rights may be carried out.

In Africa, interest during the year has centred rather in the " spheres of influence "—the raw materials of colonies, as they have been aptly termed—than in the more settled colonies, though both in Cape Colony and in Natal there have been incidents that call for more than passing notice. The honours of the first place, both in dramatic interest and in the popular imagination, must, however, be accorded to British East Africa. Twelve months ago Uganda was for the majority of Englishmen scarcely even a geographical expression ; Cabinet Ministers are credibly reported to have thought it to be somewhere in South Africa, others, it is darkly hinted, had difficulty in deciding to which Continent they should turn to find its position on the map. Now, largely owing to the unwearied efforts of Captain Lugard, not only is Uganda a familiar word in the mouth of the man in the street, but there is open to every one a mass of information as to its recent history and commercial and strategical importance such as we possess of few savage States. The events which forced Uganda on the attention of the public took place early in the year. It is unfortunate that in this remote region of Africa there had been transplanted creed hatreds which find it difficult to live —or at least to flourish—in the more civilized parts of Europe. A triangular duel between Protestants, Roman Catholics, and Mahomedans had long engaged the attention of Captain Lugard, the Acting Administrator of the Imperial British East Africa Company. In 1891 Roman Catholics and Protestants had combined to rout the Mahomedans. This accomplished, the two parties of professing Christians were with difficulty restrained from attacking each other. Early in January of 1892 the crisis came. It is now pretty clear that the Roman

Catholics were the aggressors, and, in pursuance of his repeated warning that in case of an outbreak he would join his forces to those of the party attacked, Captain Lugard espoused the cause of the Protestants. In the end the Roman Catholics were completely routed and King Mwanga fled. It is impossible to pass even in the briefest review the events of the next few months or to recall the measures by which Captain Lugard succeeded in restoring peace to the distracted country and in effecting a settlement satisfactory to the reasonable men of all parties. Nor need we dwell on the reckless charges brought against Captain Lugard by the French Roman Catholic Bishop —charges which have been triumphantly refuted by that officer since his return home. But a question of immediate and pressing importance arose out of these transactions. What was to be done with Uganda? Uganda was, by the Anglo-German Agreement delimiting the respective spheres of influence in East Africa of the two countries, included within the British sphere; the Chartered Company, which was in Uganda as the representative of Great Britain, had definitely announced its intention of leaving the country at the end of 1892, driven to this resolution by lack of funds. Two parties at once arose —the one insisting that our responsibilities in Africa must not be increased; the other convinced that honour and interest alike forbade us to abandon Uganda. It became necessary for Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues to come to an immediate decision, and on this, the first question of importance which had engaged its attention, it soon became manifest that differences of opinion existed in the new Cabinet. As a compromise the Government offered to bear the cost of the company remaining in Uganda until March 31, 1893, and the company at once accepted the offer. The delay of three months afforded a much-needed opportunity to public opinion to formulate itself. The most was made of the opportunity, and in a very short time —as soon, indeed, as the true bearings of the matter at issue were understood—it became manifest that, with insignificant

exceptions, the country was strongly opposed to the abandonment of Uganda. As soon as this became apparent, the Government decided on a further step—the appointment of an Imperial Commissioner to take over the country from the representatives of the company and to report on the future administration of the country. Sir Gerald Portal, British Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar, was appointed Commissioner with an efficient staff, and is now engaged in making preparations for the journey to Uganda. An interesting event in the history of East Africa is the completion by Captain Macdonald, R.E., of the survey for a railway from Mombasa to the Victoria Nyanza. It is to be feared that the present Government are too deeply committed, by their speeches when in Opposition, against the policy of building the railway under an Imperial guarantee for the line to be at once undertaken, but when the time comes for connecting Uganda with the coast by a line of railway the results of the survey will be of the greatest value. Passing allusion may be made to the report that a Belgian force from the territories of the Congo Free State has established itself at Lado, on the Upper Nile, within the sphere of influence reserved for Great Britain. It is probable that the chronicler of 1893 may have more to say of this incident; it is sufficient in writing of 1892 not to let it pass altogether unnoticed.

On the other side of Africa there is little to record. The Jebus, a tribe of middlemen at the back of the colony of Lagos, had to be severely punished for their obstructive tactics. The Oil Rivers Protectorate, under the administration of Sir Claude MacDonald, has been fairly prosperous, and the Royal Niger Company, the most unobtrusive of the chartered companies, has held on the even tenour of its way, disturbed only by the eccentric conduct of Lieutenant Mizon, who made himself responsible before the French public for a number of groundless charges, ranging from murder, or inciting to murder, downwards, against the company and its officials.

Of British Central Africa little has been heard. One incident alone—but that a painful one—attracted attention to the territories administered by Mr. H. H. Johnston. This was the murder of Captain Maguire—a promising young officer in command of the small military forces in Nyassaland—by Makinjila, a slave-trading chief on the east shore of the lake.

South of the Zambesi we enter a field where the results of British energy and British capital are everywhere apparent. The history of the Chartered Company of South Africa during the past year has been one of steady progress. Favoured by an exceptionally mild rainy season, in striking contrast to that of the previous year, the white population of Mashonaland set itself deliberately to work to develop the resources of the promised land. Fort Salisbury and the other townships have blossomed into centres of civilization, with public buildings, churches, hotels, and shops of all kinds, and a printed newspaper has replaced the small mechanically reproduced sheet which was at first all that met the craving of the modern man for news of what is going on around him. Municipal government has been established; Fort Salisbury is now in telegraphic communication with Europe and the rest of the world; farms have been taken up, town lots have been sold at prices that astonished even the officials of the company, and crushing on a small scale has taken place with encouraging results. But the most important incident in the history of the year is the beginning of the Beira Railway, which will, when completed, connect Fort Salisbury with the coast, and reduce the cost of transport to a fraction of what it is at present. A company, with an Anglo-Portuguese Board, was formed for the purpose of building the railway, and the capital found in London. The first contract is only for the construction of a section of the line 70 miles in length, through the tsetze fly country, but the completion of the whole line is only a matter of time and money, and when so much depends on its being built it may be taken for granted that Mr. Rhodes and his co-directors will not incur any unnecessary

delay. The delimitation of the British and Portuguese spheres in this part of Africa has, unfortunately, not been completed. The Commissioners were unable to agree upon certain points and the matters in dispute have been referred to the home Governments for decision. Further, it may be noted that the directors of the Chartered Company have recently made efforts to have placed under their control that part of Bechuanaland north of the Crown colony which is at present administered by her Majesty's High Commissioner as a protectorate. It remains to be seen whether this additional territory, which the company claims to be covered by their charter, will be handed over to this great corporation.

In Cape Colony, which, through its Premier, is closely linked with the Chartered Company, the two outstanding questions of importance during 1892 have been the reform of the franchise and railway extension. Closely associated with the latter question is that of the future of Swaziland. Twice during the year have the Cape Premier and her Majesty's High Commissioner visited London to discuss with the home Government the many matters of interest connected with South Africa with which their names are so intimately associated. The Swaziland question was very fully discussed during the last visit of Sir Henry Loch and Mr. Rhodes, and the former, on his return to the Cape, will, it is hoped, be able to effect a settlement with President Kruger, who has apparently set his heart on annexing Swaziland to the Transvaal. A strong party at the Cape, where the interest in Swaziland is naturally small, is willing to gratify the Boer President if, in return, he will undertake to lower the wall of protective tariffs which was erected against the Cape as soon as the Cape traders, having secured access to the Transvaal by railway, were counting the gains of an immediate expansion of trade with the Republic. Sir Henry Loch is understood to be in possession of the views of the Colonial Office on the subject and to be charged with the mission of negotiating a settlement with President Kruger. From a

purely colonial point of view the measure of franchise reform introduced and carried by the Government, without any really serious opposition, was, however, undoubtedly the most important event of the year for Cape Colony. It was a measure of selfpreservation. It was a Reform Bill which aimed, not at widening, but at restricting the franchise. Until the passage of this measure the franchise gave a vote to every man, white or black, occupying a dwelling of the capital value of £25, or earning wages of £25 a year with board and lodgings, or of £50 in money alone. This was in practice a manhood suffrage, and as the colony extended its borders and took in large black populations the disparity between the white and black vote became more and more apparent. As a matter of fact, the black population of the colony outnumbers the white population by three to one. The dangers of such a state of things are obvious. Want of organization and ignorance of their own power were safeguards on which reliance could not be placed for ever, and the Government Bill was, in effect, a compromise supported alike by the best elements among the Conservative and Progressive parties, and even by some of the more highly educated among the natives themselves. It provided, in the first place, that all existing rights should be respected. Voters on the list should remain on it so long as they retained the old qualification and remained in the same electoral district. But for all new voters the qualification is raised from a £25 to a £75 occupation, capital value. Persons unable to write their name, address, and occupation are disqualified from voting, and the Bill further provides that voting shall be by ballot all through the colony after July, 1894.

In Natal the advocates of responsible government have again had their hopes dashed by the refusal of the electors to adopt the Bill agreed upon by the representatives of the Responsible Government party in the Legislative Council and the Colonial Office. In May Sir John Robinson and Mr. Sutton, the delegates appointed by the Council to confer with Lord Knutsford

"with respect to certain points in regard to which the Council experienced difficulty in fully complying with the wishes of the Government," arrived in London, and, after a stay of some two months, returned to Natal, taking with them a draft Bill approved by the home authorities. The one point on which there was any serious difference of opinion was on the position of the Governor with reference to the natives. It was agreed that under the new constitution the Governor should be invested with the powers of Supreme Chief of the natives, but were those powers to be exercised by the Governor in Council —that is, acting und er the advice of his Ministers—or was he to be responsible only to the Secretary of State in Downing-street? It was the latter view that prevailed, and on the return of the delegates to Natal a report was presented to the Council, which was almost immediately afterwards dissolved, to enable the sense of the electors to be taken on the Bill. In the new Council there was a majority against the proposed change, and the Governor was informed that the Council was not prepared to consider the question of the establishment of a more advanced form of government than at present exists. There for the present the matter rests; but petitions have been presented against the return of a certain number of the members opposed to the Bill, and it seems probable that the Council may eventually contain a small majority in favour of responsible government. Even should this be so, it is doubtful if the Colonial Office will be able to regard the result of the elections as such a "decided and unmistakable declaration of public feeling in favour of the change" as would justify her Majesty in giving her consent to a Bill for entirely changing the constitution of the colony.

A summary of the colonial year would hardly be complete without a passing reference to two calamities of unusual magnitude which overtook different parts of the British Empire. On the 29th of April a cyclone of extraordinary violence devastated the island of Mauritius, wrecking 3,000 houses

and leaving over 20,000 people homeless. Early in July a fire broke out in the city of St. John's, the capital of Newfoundland, and before its progress was arrested two-thirds of the city was in ruins. The ever-ready sympathy of the citizens of London was invoked in both cases, and considerable sums were sent from the Mansion-house to Mauritius and St. John's to assist the inhabitants in meeting the calamities that had overtaken them.

FRANCE.

IT is with a melancholy feeling that those who live in Paris now, at the close of an eventful year, cast their glance backward over the last few months; and abroad also a similar feeling, except in the hearts of the enemies of France, must tinge the thoughts of all. For, even prior to the painful incidents of the recent weeks, the fame of France has been sullied by certain other incidents not out of character with the sad events through which the country is now passing. The year that has rolled by might, indeed, almost be called the "Year of Humiliation." Humiliating it has been, as much for the accusers as for the accused. If the latter have been lacking in a sense of public duty, and have studied their individual interests instead of those of the community, the former have put on the mask of indignation only the better to satisfy their own hatreds and ambitions, and under the pretence of patriotism have dishonoured their country. It is the conduct of the thankless child of the proverb.

The year opened with a characteristic keynote—a humiliating scene in the Chamber of Deputies itself. A member who had been among the noisiest of General Boulanger's supporters—a M. Laur—made from the tribune certain insulting insinuations against M. Constans, then Minister of the Interior; and M. Constans, losing his coolness and self-control, twice slapped his accuser's face as he was returning to his seat. Upon the pain-

ful impropriety of this act it is not necessary to dwell. Those present who had listened to the provoking language of M. Laur have since tried to excuse M. Constans; for, to tell the truth, his adversary is, even among Boulangists, perhaps the most irritating and the least sympathetic of the enemies of the Government. But most people in France who know the *rôle* of the duel, who have observed with what a complicated casuistry in each case its rules are applied, and with what adroitness professional duellists succeed in minimizing the danger of a meeting—people who, in a word, see that the duel as now fought proves absolutely nothing, not even the courage of the combatants, condemned the conduct of M. Constans as startlingly illustrating the present decadence of political manners in France. The slapping of M. Laur's face was ominous. The act for which M. Laur could obtain no reparation was, as it were, the degrading prelude of the moral disasters which were soon to follow, and of which now, at the close of the year, we are the shocked spectators. On the shameful pages of this year's record even "he who runs" may read one constant lesson; patriotism has no greater foe than the unscrupulous schemes of unsatisfied ambitions.

Of this truth no better illustration could be had than a complete history of the most important episode of the year, up to the death of Baron Reinach—namely, the Carmaux strike. Here, on the largest scale, was a disquieting illustration of the selfishness and cynicism that are now being displayed in every rank of society. The Mayor of Carmaux, M. Calvignac, and his supporters in this odious strike were moved by the same unscrupulous ambition which, in a higher rank of life, brought about those shameful machinations conjured up to-day in every mind by the word "Panama." The strike and the scandal seemed intended only to serve the fomenters of disorder. And well have these incidents tended to fulfil their purpose. But between these two great episodes of Carmaux and Panama —both of which have brought about Parliamentary crises,

weakening the constitutional principle, and raising to the surface the mud and slime in the Socialist and political depths—France traversed a period in which it is not so easy to indicate any clearly-defined points.

Thus the confused and vague rumours relating to the Franco-Russian negotiations remain as confused and vague as ever. It is hard to say just where the hitch has occurred ; but it is more than probable that both parties to the compact have come to the conclusion that a formal treaty of alliance is useless, because such alliance could have no practical utility except in a period of common danger, and at such a time unity of action between the two countries would be spontaneous. It is certain, however, that repeated *pourparlers* have taken place, and that Russia and France are now accurately informed as to the size and composition of each other's armies and as to the best way of a common mobilization. This mutual comprehension implies of itself, however, certain reciprocal obligations. For either nation, in these circumstances, to seek the alliance of another and a hostile nation would be an act of treachery. But history does not show that such treachery is impossible. These platonic understandings are too often betrayed by one of the parties, and continual vigilance on the part of each is a simple dictate of prudence.

The Emperor of Russia loves peace, and this fact may have contributed to convince France of the comparative uselessness of a written treaty. At the present moment France, from a military point of view, is so strong that it fears no external foe, and can easily enough dispense with any help in case it is called upon to defend itself at home. This Franco-Russian *entente* will probably remain, therefore, for a long time to come in its present condition. France, conscious of her strength, will not think of utilizing it except for good cause ; and one result of this indefinite state will probably be to make her less susceptible, less inclined to sudden enthusiasms, and less likely to lose her head if Russia should chance to enter on a period of

military activity without previous accord with her. At all events, for this reason and from an international point of view, the tacit understanding between France and Russia is a gain.

Another matter which for some time occupied public attention here was the curious declaration of Prince Bismarck, who claimed as a title to glory that he had tampered with the famous "Ems telegram" which precipitated the war of 1870. It is difficult to understand how any fallen statesman's ambition could lead him to accept the responsibility of an act by which all Europe was deceived and which shed the blood of thousands. The French newspapers of course—as indeed was their right and obvious duty—took note of Prince Bismarck's declarations in order to remind Europe that France had been driven to the war by his premeditated act of cynicism, and that he had thrown the blame of the war upon France with a diabolical serenity worthy of Macchiavelli. But the truth is, in spite of Prince Bismarck's cynical assertion, that war was desired on both sides. In Germany Marshal Moltke and Prince Bismarck agreed in wishing for it, because the propitious moment seemed to them to have arrived. The one saw in it the triumph of his army, the other that of his policy; and the King of Prussia, not so sure of his military strength as Marshal Moltke nor so ambitious as his Minister, looked upon the prospect of the war with much less enthusiasm than his two impatient counsellors. In France, on the other hand, the Empress, utterly mistaking the military strength of the country and seeing the Empire rocking on its uncertain foundations of Liberalism, led the Ministers to think with her that war was inevitable, and, a pretext once discovered, drove France, with all the ardour of a Spaniard, into the fatal conflict. Whether or not the Ems telegram now published by Prince Bismarck was falsified or merely expanded, it is certain that the French Government knew that the telegram set things in a false light, that Count Benedetti had not really been insulted, and that Germany's conduct did not absolutely

impose a declaration of war on France. Our Correspondent has previously mentioned what Lord Lyons himself told him of the words of the Duc de Grammont to him on July 14, 1870. "Bismarck," said he, "is spreading abroad the statement that the French Ambassador has been insulted by the King of Prussia, and this is simply infamous, for he knows perfectly well that it is not true."

The French Government might even then have stated this in the Chamber, but the passion for war was as strong in Paris, or rather in the immediate circle of the French Court, as in the breasts of Marshal Moltke and Prince Bismarck; and it was in response to what was well known to be a wilfully exaggerated telegram that the war wished for by the author of that despatch was declared.

The Opposition in the French Chamber, guided, sustained, and inspired by Thiers, whose high and almost prophetic patriotism was stirring many hearts, demanded proofs of the alleged insult to the French Ambassador. But the telegram was withheld from the Chamber; one member was chosen to whom the Ministers agreed to show it, the Marquis de Talhouët. He was received by the assembled Ministers, and the telegram was shown to him. It was authentic as being the one which Prince Bismarck had sent out to his agents, but it was a telegram which could not possibly be taken as having such critical importance unless it had been accepted by Benedetti as an accurate version of what had passed between him and the King. But Benedetti hastened to deny it. Indeed, had the telegram fallen into wise hands, it would have been used rather as an argument for peace, for the author of it was, as it were, caught in the act of provoking war by wilful misstatements. Yet this was the telegram that was shown to the Marquis de Talhouët, and when he returned to the Chamber and declared on his honour that he had seen it the Ministers alone knew that it had not the significance assigned to it.

Talhouët is now dead. But for the rest of his life he suffered remorse. He felt that he had been an involuntary accomplice of Germany, and one day at Versailles he said to our Correspondent :—"Oh, if I had only reflected that it was Bismarck who sent that telegram, I might perhaps have spared Europe much suffering and humanity many burdens."

The conclusion of the whole matter is this—that Prince Bismarck, impelled by a mischievous ambition, is now trying to make himself even more crafty than he really was. He drove France into an imprudent war, but his tactics were successful only because of the way in which those who surrounded Napoleon III. eagerly played into his hands. The telegram might have been turned against him and against Prussia, and all Europe would have taken the side of France, and the astute combinations of this Macchiavel of the Spree would have been brought to naught. But the criminal haste with which the pretext was seized upon here partly relieves him of the terrible responsibility which history will affix to that war. I may mention here that the announcement of the publication of Prince Bismarck's memoirs is premature. Not before four or five months, at the earliest, can the book appear. The memoirs are now being revised. As yet they go no further than the Military Septennate Law, stopping thus before the death of William I. The most interesting periods, therefore, of which Prince Bismarck has to tell us, the period following the death of William I., the brief reign of Frederick, the little-known struggle between the Chancellor and his new Sovereign, and the accession of William II., with the fall of Prince Bismarck, have not yet been touched. It must be hoped for the fame of Prince Bismarck that when these memoirs appear he will give a version of the Ems telegram episode which will make the judgment of posterity upon him less severe.

The tradition of French Ministerial instability has been well kept up throughout the year. It was begun by the almost

premeditated fall of the Freycinet Cabinet. With this event the truce between the various sections of the Republican party was rudely broken, and the old phenomenon of an alliance between the two extremes of Right and Left was again seen. As usual, it was M. Clémenceau who undertook the task of widening the breach which he himself had done so much to open. He played on this occasion his accustomed *rôle* of destroyer, quite indifferent as to what might be the result of his machinations; and it is his very success in this part which explains the stupid and malicious joy with which public opinion some months later on received the violent accusations brought against him.

But, as our Correspondent has said, the fall of the Freycinet Cabinet was almost voluntary. There was in the Cabinet a general feeling that it was necessary to extinguish M. Constans, and M. de Freycinet wished to devote himself entirely to the Ministry of War, in which function, now that he had become a member of the French Academy, he thought that he could safely and quietly await the moment of realizing his constant dream—namely, that of seating himself in the Presidential chair. Those who now accuse M. Constans of playing a part in the campaign waged against the leaders of the Republican party forget that the three men of whom he had the greatest reason to complain—namely, M. de Freycinet, M. Ribot, and M. Bourgeois—are the very men who have suffered the least from the vile recrimination of the last few weeks; while, on the other hand, M. Rouvier, who remained faithful to him, has been treated with the utmost violence and cynicism. But M. de Freycinet, who still holds, unshaken by the various attacks made against him, the post of Minister of War, which he has so much adorned, is no longer a possible candidate for the Presidency. In him may be seen the melancholy and instructive spectacle of a man favoured by public fortune beyond the lot of most, a man whose every ambition, save one, has been brilliantly and unexpectedly satisfied, yet who has never tasted happiness because he has

ever walked with his eye on a fleeting dream of culminating good fortune which he can never reach.

The very day after the fall of the Freycinet Ministry, by one of those strange coincidences which have more than once occurred in the recent history of France, appeared the Papal encyclical, the first intention of which seemed to be to uphold that Ministry, while the second was to turn the religious policy of France in an entirely new direction. Neither of these ends, however, was secured; the second, at least, has not been as yet. The Freycinet Cabinet almost seemed to be trying to escape the encyclical. It did not appear to wish to borrow therefrom a new lease of life. The religious policy of France is still going on beneath the surface, and almost every French Government has sought to win over the personal support of the Pope.

After a ten days' crisis appeared the Loubet Cabinet. This was another indication of President Carnot's constant endeavour to choose his Prime Ministers from among Moderate Republicans. This laudable desire, however, it must be admitted, has hitherto had only negative results. Moderate Republicanism has not as yet succeeded by any means in restraining the constant activity of the deadly foes of established order. The explosion in the Rue de Clichy, which occurred soon after M. Loubet's accession, threw Paris into a state of consternation. The party of disorder and anarchy entered upon the scene. Search for the author of this act was at first fruitless. It was a waiter in the Véry Restaurant who discovered the Anarchist and dynamiter, Ravachol. The revenge of Anarchism was quick and terrible. A fresh explosion at the Véry Restaurant showed that a mysterious association was taking upon itself the functions of justice in pitilessly punishing those who, as good citizens, had come to the aid of law and order.

Some weeks later on, after a short lull, came the Carmaux strike, which proved that Socialism and Anarchy had joined hands in defiance of legality. This strike, protracted simply in the interests of political agitation, revealed the weakness of the

Government and the absence of authority. It was an odd sight to behold legislators becoming the commercial travellers of revolution ; to see M. Clémenceau himself, leader of the Radical party, going to Carmaux, sustaining by his presence this organized attack upon the law, and bringing about that strange attempt at arbitration in which M. Loubet compromised the prestige of the supreme authority. It was the Government's weakness in this matter that encouraged the foes of the Republic, who were mysteriously concocting their schemes against it ; and by the time that they had brought their Panama plans to maturity the Cabinet was already too weak to be capable of any resolute action.

On November 20 occurred the death of Baron Reinach, which served as the starting point of the Panama campaign. For a hundred years a death has always shaken or overturned the established Government. Not to speak of 1793 with its numberless executions, every successive Government seems to have stumbled against a coffin. The First Empire had the Duc d'Enghien, the Restoration Marshal Ney, the Orleans Dynasty the Duc de Praslin, the Second Republic Archbishop Affre, the Second Empire Victor Noir, while the present Republic has had Baron Reinach, whose death appeared to agitators the signal for a fresh revolution. A committee of inquiry appointed by the Chamber lost no time in trying to install the revolution. Its chairman, M. Brisson, claimed to supersede the judicial authorities, and thereupon a series of systematic denunciations began all over France. To please that capricious master, universal suffrage, all the ordinary guarantees of justice have been trampled under foot, and a kind of moral torture has been revived in a country claiming to march at the head of civilization. Men have been kept in durance who in England would without hesitation have been admitted to bail, in order that solitary confinement might enfeeble their resistance and render them easy victims to the traps laid by a magistrate armed with all the devices known to

French justice. The aim of the ringleaders of this campaign cannot as yet be precisely ascertained, for what seemed at the outset an elaborate plan now seems simple haphazard. If the object was to carry the next elections, the campaign commenced too soon, for this period of denunciations can scarcely be prolonged till September. As for the dynastic pretenders, no one of them seems to have the slightest chance of profiting by an overthrow of the Republic, while apart from them no man can be described whom revolution-makers could put at the head of their mobs. The only conclusion, therefore, is that the aim of the agitators is simply to vilify the present Government and its leading statesmen in order to climb into their places. They are ambitious outsiders who have apparently combined to wrest the government from the hands of the opportunists.

Although in Renan France has lost one of her most illustrious sons, the homage paid to M. Pasteur on his 70th birthday has shown that, in spite of the unworthiness and perfidy of individuals, the French race is not so exhausted as one might be tempted to think, but still produces men bearing the stamp of genius and diffusing light all around them. France, moreover, still possesses that persevering pioneer who, despite all obstacles, opened up a new highway for the nations. But Ferdinand de Lesseps, while losing the consciousness of his own glory, has happily, by a strange compensation of Providence, lost the perception of the indignities which ungrateful countrymen are heaping upon him.

General Dodds, it is consoling to think, has inscribed a brilliant page in French military annals by a campaign which has shown the French soldier struggling indomitably against the most uncommon privations and dangers, and setting an example of the strictest discipline. Civilization thus penetrates a corner of Africa hitherto doomed to the most monstrous barbarism.

THE REVENUE.

I.

AN Account of the Total Revenue of the United Kingdom in the undermentioned periods of the year 1892-93, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year :—

—	Quarter ending December 31, 1891.		
	Paid into the Exchequer.	Paid to the Local Taxation Accounts.	Total Revenue.
Customs	£5,497,000	£49,108	£5,546,108
Excise	7,342,000	1,777,000	9,119,000
Stamps...	3,200,000	504,000	3,704,000
House Duty	25,000	—	25,000
Property and Income Tax ...	1,110,000	—	1,110,000
Post Office	2,560,000	—	2,560,000
Telegraph Service	645,000	—	645,000
Crown Lands	160,000	—	160,000
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	110,844	—	110,844
Miscellaneous	914,401	—	914,401
Totals	£21,564,245	£2,330,108	£23,894,353

—	Quarter ending December 31, 1892.		
	Paid into the Exchequer.	Paid to the Local Taxation Accounts.	Total Revenue.
Customs	£5,647,000	£55,636	£5,702,636
Excise	7,350,000	1,773,000	9,123,000
Stamps...	3,480,000	463,000	3,943,000
House Duty	35,000	—	35,000
Property and Income Tax ...	1,170,000	—	1,170,000
Post Office	2,630,000	—	2,630,000
Telegraph Service	615,000	—	615,000
Crown Lands	160,000	—	160,000
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	109,980	—	109,980
Miscellaneous	582,492	—	582,492
Totals	£21,779,472	£2,291,636	£24,071,108

An Account of the Total Revenue of the United Kingdom in the undermentioned periods of the year 1892-93, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year (continued) :—

—	Period from April 1 to December 31, 1891, inclusive.		
	Paid into the Exchequer.	Paid to the Local Taxation Accounts.	Total Revenue.
Customs	£14,897,000	£141,705	£15,038,705
Excise	19,382,000	3,247,951	22,629,951
Stamps...	9,915,000	1,791,668	11,706,668
Land Tax	60,000	—	60,000
House Duty	405,000	—	405,000
Property and Income Tax ...	4,255,000	—	4,255,000
Post Office	7,200,000	—	7,200,000
Telegraph Service	1,910,000	—	1,910,000
Crown Lands	325,000	—	325,000
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	222,111	—	222,111
Miscellaneous	2,031,486	—	2,031,486
Totals	£60,602,597	£5,181,324	£65,783,921

—	Period from April 1 to December 31, 1892, inclusive.		
	Paid into the Exchequer.	Paid to the Local Taxation Accounts.	Total Revenue.
Customs	£14,979,000	£141,858	£15,120,858
Excise	19,520,000	3,235,868	22,755,868
Stamps...	10,305,000	1,757,186	12,062,186
Land Tax	50,000	—	50,000
House Duty	380,000	—	380,000
Property and Income Tax ...	4,020,000	—	4,020,000
Post Office	7,350,000	—	7,350,000
Telegraph Service	1,925,000	—	1,925,000
Crown Lands	325,000	—	325,000
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	220,396	—	220,396
Miscellaneous	1,829,496	—	1,829,496
Totals	£60,903,892	£5,134,912	£66,038,804

II.

Increase or decrease in the Revenue paid into the Exchequer in the undermentioned periods of the year 1892-93, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year :—

—	Quarter ending June 30, 1892.	
	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs...	—	£120,000
Excise	—	20,000
Stamps	£85,000	—
Land Tax	—	10,000
House Duty	—	30,000
Property and Income Tax	—	280,000
Post Office	20,000	—
Telegraph Service	15,000	—
Crown Lands	—	—
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	—	—
Miscellaneous	231,568	—
Totals	£351,568	£460,000
	Net Decrease, £108,432	

—	Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1892.	
	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs...	£52,000	—
Excise	150,000	—
Stamps	25,000	—
Land Tax	—	—
House Duty	—	£5,000
Property and Income Tax	—	15,000
Post Office	60,000	—
Telegraph Service	30,000	—
Crown Lands	—	—
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	—	851
Miscellaneous...	—	101,649
Totals	£317,000	£122,500
	Net Increase, £194,500	

Increase or decrease in the Revenue paid into the Exchequer in the undermentioned periods of the year 1892-93, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year (continued) :—

	Quarter ending Dec. 31, 1892.	
	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs...	£150,000	—
Excise	8,000	—
Stamps	280,000	—
Land Tax	—	—
House Duty	10,000	—
Property and Income Tax	60,000	—
Post Office	70,000	—
Telegraph Service	—	£30,000
Crown Lands	—	—
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	—	864
Miscellaneous...	—	331,909
Totals	£578,000	£362,773
	Net Increase,	£215,227

	Period from April 1 to Dec. 31, 1892 inclusive.	
	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs...	£82,000	—
Excise	138,000	—
Stamps	390,000	—
Land Tax	—	£10,000
House Duty	—	25,000
Property and Income Tax	—	235,000
Post Office	150,000	—
Telegraph Service	15,000	—
Crown Lands	—	—
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	—	1,715
Miscellaneous	—	201,990
Totals	£775,000	£473,705
	Net Increase,	£301,295

III.

Increase or decrease in the Total Revenue in the undermentioned periods of the year 1892-93, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year :—

—	Quarter ending June 30, 1892.	
	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs...	—	£123,161
Excise	—	14,183
Stamps	£131,518	—
Land Tax	—	10,000
House Duty	—	30,000
Property and Income Tax	—	280,000
Post Office	20,000	—
Telegraph Service	15,000	—
Crown Lands	—	—
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	—	—
Miscellaneous	231,568	—
Totals...	£398,086	£457,344
	Net Decrease, £59,258	

—	Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1892.	
	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs...	£48,786	—
Excise	136,100	—
Stamps	—	£15,000
Land Tax	—	—
House Duty	—	5,000
Property and Income Tax	—	15,000
Post Office	60,000	—
Telegraph Service	30,000	—
Crown Lands	—	—
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	—	851
Miscellaneous...	—	101,649
Totals	£274,886	£137,500
	Net Increase, £137,386	

Increase or decrease in the Total Revenue in the under-mentioned periods of the year 1892-93, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year (continued) :—

	Quarter ending Dec. 31, 1892.	
	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs...	£156,528	—
Excise	4,000	—
Stamps	239,000	—
Land Tax	—	—
House Duty	10,000	—
Property and Income Tax	60,000	—
Post Office	70,000	—
Telegraph Service	—	£30,000
Crown Lands	—	—
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	—	864
Miscellaneous...	—	331,909
Totals	£539,528	£362,773
	Net Increase,	£176,755

	Period from April 1 to Dec. 31, 1892, inclusive.	
	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs..	£82,153	—
Excise	125,917	—
Stamps	355,518	—
Land Tax	—	£10,000
House Duty	—	25,000
Property and Income Tax	—	235,000
Post Office	150,000	—
Telegraph Service	15,000	—
Crown Lands	—	—
Interest on Purchase Money of Suez Canal Shares, &c.	—	1,715
Miscellaneous...	—	201,990
Totals	£728,588	£473,705
	Net Increase,	£254,883

IV.

An Account showing the Receipts into the Exchequer in the quarter ending December 31, 1892, the issues out of the same, the charges on the Consolidated Fund at that date, and the surplus or deficiency of the balance in the Exchequer on December 31, 1892, in respect of such charges :—

Revenue paid into the Exchequer, as shown in Account I.		£21,779,472
Amount received as an advance in aid of Ways and Means		500,000
Advances repaid—		
For bullion	£370,000	
For Sardinian Loan	29,434	
		399,434
Money raised by creation of debt—		
For Supply	£796,000	
Under the Imperial Defence Act, 1888...	804,000	
Under the Naval Defence Act, 1889 ...	900,000	
Under the National Debt Redemption Act, 1889	450,633	
Under the Barracks Act, 1890	150,000	
Under the Telegraph Act, 1892	30,000	
		3,130,633
		£25,809,539
Deficiency to be met		*3,450,616
*This deficiency is in respect of the charges remaining to be paid on December 31, as shown on the other side of the account, viz.:—	£5,314,269	
After the balances in the Exchequer at the Banks of England and Ireland have been deducted, viz. :—	1,863,653	
	£3,450,616	
The deficiency in Great Britain was...	£3,797,439	
But there was a surplus in Ireland of	346,823	
Net deficiency as above...	£3,450,616	
		£29,260,155

Net deficiency of the Balance in the Exchequer to meet the charge on Sept. 30, 1892, as per last account ... £3,797,132

Amount applied out of Revenue to Supply Services ... 15,501,285

Consolidated Fund Charges for the quarter to December 31, 1892, viz. :—

	Paid before end of Qr.	Remaining to be paid.	
Debt charges :—			
Inside the fixed charge ...	£569,094	£5,019,342	
Naval Defence Fund Annuity	178,571	—	
Other Consolidated Fund Services	105,152	285,357	
Issues to meet other expenditure :—			
Under the Imperial Defence Act, 1888	96,000	—	
Under the Naval Defence Act, 1889	150,000	—	
Under the Barracks Act, 1890	150,000	—	
Under the Telegraph Act, 1892	30,000	—	
Advances :—			
For purchase of bullion for coinage	200,000	—	
Under the Imperial Defence Act, 1888	15,326	—	
Under the Naval Defence Act, 1889	21,326	9,570	
Redemption of Unfunded Debt :—			
For Supply	828,000	—	
Under the Imperial Defence Act, 1888	804,000	—	
Under the Naval Defence Act, 1889	750,000	—	
Under the National Debt Redemption Act, 1889 ...	450,000	—	
Old Sinking Fund (Surplus Revenue, 1891-1892) ...	300,000	—	
	£4,647,469	£5,314,269	£9,961,738
			£29,260,155

TREASURY, December 31, 1892.

BUSINESS.

TWELVE months ago, when we were discussing the course of business in 1891, we observed that, great as had been the contraction of business, consequent on the Baring crisis, during that year, the process was not ended, and that it was useless to look for any material improvement in the situation for another 12 months at least. We based this opinion on the fact that, while there was no probability of a recovery in the volume of the foreign trade of the United Kingdom, but rather the reverse, there was a practical certainty of a diminution in the activity of the home trade. The actual results of the past year show that our anticipations were, in the main, correct. Business in 1892 has to a large extent been a repetition of that of 1891, its chief features being again "liquidation of bad business, reduction of expenditure, restriction of transactions in most markets, and contraction of trade generally." As regards the home trade there can, we fear, be little doubt that the situation is in some important respects worse now than it was a year ago. The most important evidence on this point is furnished by the Returns of the Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade on the State of the Skilled Labour Market, which show that the proportion of men out of work during the year was, taking the mean of the monthly returns published, 5·85 per cent., against 3·38 per cent. in 1891. The significance of this average may, perhaps, be somewhat diminished by the con-

sideration that the high proportion of men out of work during the last three months is due to the cotton strike, which does not appear to be a very fierce battle. But even supposing that this strike is a roundabout mode of forcing a restriction of production on the masters, some of whom are not, it is believed, indisposed to be thus "constrained," it indicates a belief in the necessity for reducing the output if wages are to be kept up, and shows, therefore, that there is over-production in this as in other trades. We are not, be it understood, endorsing the view taken by the men as to the policy adopted, but merely noting the fact that there is "over-production." The Board of Trade figures, moreover, show that there was a steady increase, month by month, in the proportion of skilled men unemployed, and when that is the case the position of unskilled men cannot have been good. There are other statistics which support this view. The quantities of dutiable articles taken out of bond during the eleven months for which we have complete figures show that there has again been an increase in the consumption of tea and tobacco, but at a less rate than in 1891, and there is a reduction in coffee, cocoa, spirits, and wine, so that we may fairly assume that the process of economizing has begun, though the maintenance of the consumption of tea and tobacco perhaps indicates that it has not gone very far yet.

We have said enough to show that there is good reason to think that the depression in the home trade, which was hardly perceptible in 1891, began to affect the labouring classes in 1892, and our review of the course of markets during the year, published in *The Times* of December 27, confirms this conclusion. The year has also been bad for railway traffic and for the coasting trade, but on the other hand the Revenue returns have been satisfactory, and must be taken as, in some degree, modifying the effect of the other figures. Most of the increase in stamps, which is large, took place early in the year, the figures comparing against the poor receipts of the beginning of 1891, but those for the quarter just ended are very good. The

Revenue receipts, however, are rarely affected by trade depression at once, and it is probable that next year will be less favourable in this respect, and generally we are disposed to look for a further contraction in the home trade during the current year. This is all the more probable because there are at present no signs of an increase in the volume of orders for goods from abroad, though the downfall of the Republican party in the United States and the prospect of a relaxation in the stringency of the Customs tariff of that country has naturally encouraged manufacturers who export largely to hope that better times may be looked for. The improvement can hardly come yet, however, and for the next few months, at any rate, the prospect is not cheering. The export trade of 1893 can, however, hardly be worse than that of 1892. The total for that year was 8·6 per cent. less than that for 1891, which itself showed a reduction of 6·1 per cent. on 1890. The total of the past 12 months will represent, we hope, the lowest point in the contraction which followed the collapse of speculation in November, 1890, but we cannot look with confidence for much, if any, improvement in the year now beginning.

Although our forecast of the probable character of trade in 1893 is not encouraging, we are of opinion that some progress towards a more healthy economic condition of things has been made in the past year. Unquestionably a good deal of bad business which was not swept away in 1891 has been closed during the last 12 months. Liquidations, either open or veiled, have been numerous, the most important being those of Murrieta and Company (Limited), and the New Oriental Bank Corporation. The final downfall of the old concern of Murrieta and Co. arouses some natural regret, on grounds of sentiment, but from the point of view of the general good it must be recorded with satisfaction. It is indeed a pity that it did not occur a year previously, when the credit of the old firm had been destroyed beyond reasonable hope of resuscitation. Unfortunately there was in the early part of

1891 a delusive impression abroad that something resembling the *tour de force* by which the actual failure of Baring Brothers was prevented could be effected in other cases. It is a good thing that this dangerous notion has been so quickly shown to be erroneous. The galvanizing of commercial and financial corpses is not likely to be attempted again for a long time to come now that it is clearly seen that the operation leads to loss and trouble on the part of all who are rash enough to enter on it. The fate of the New Oriental Bank really furnishes the same moral, though that institution, which was formed in 1883 on the ruins of the famous Oriental Bank, has had a longer lease of life than Murrieta and Company (Limited). The case of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China is somewhat different, for, though it is in process of reconstruction, this bank was and is solvent, though it has lost a large proportion of its capital, a situation which the terms of its charter required its board and proprietors to "regularize."

Apart from liquidations and reconstructions, there is no doubt that during 1892 there have been many realizations of securities which had been previously held, either because there was no market for them or because the holders still hoped to "get out" without loss. That it has been possible to sell the class of securities in question, chiefly Argentine and other South American Government and Railway stocks, marks a distinct improvement in the state of things in 1892 as compared with 1891, and we may observe that, to all appearance, the various markets have stood these constant sales pretty well. The useful table of aggregate values of a large number of securities published each month in the *Bankers' Magazine* shows that the value of these stocks was £2,819,783,000 at the end of the past year, or only about £381,000 (about 0·01 per cent.) less than it was at the close of 1891.

We need hardly say that there has been a further contraction in the total amount of paid clearing in 1892. We give below

a table showing the quarterly totals of clearing, which we believe to be a fair index of the activity of general business. They seem to indicate that here also we have got over the worst, for the rate of diminution has been falling during the last six months. The sudden reduction in the total cleared apparent in the second quarter was no doubt due to the uneasiness which was created by the situation of the two Eastern banks mentioned above. In order to show the full extent of the contraction that has now been going on for two years, we give the following statement of the clearing returns in 1892, 1891, and 1890—in millions of £ (000,000 omitted) :—

—	1892.	1891.	1890.	Proportional Decrease of 1892 on	
				1891.	1890.
1st Quarter... ...	1,721	1,854	1,979	−7·2	−12·9
2d Quarter... ...	1,562	1,740	1,966	−10·2	−20·2
3d Quarter... ...	1,528	1,563	1,957	−2·2	−21·9
4th Quarter... ...	1,612	1,662	1,898	−3·0	−15·0
Total... ...	6,423	6,819	7,800	−5·8	−17·6

This table indicates that the contraction during the past two years is about the same as that which took place during the three years ending in 1876, the decrease in the paid clearing of that year being 18 per cent. on that of 1873. As we observed a year ago, the process of liquidation and the consequent contraction of business has been much more rapid than in 1873-6, and we may therefore hope to get through the whole process of sickness and recovery in a shorter time than on the former occasion. It was not till 1878 that any real revival began to show itself after the breakdown of 1873, and we have advanced far enough with our present liquidation to make it reasonable to expect that we shall not want another three years to complete the process, unless war or some other unexpected misfortune overtakes the world.

The Money Market has been very quiet throughout the year. During a period of nearly six months, from April 28 to October 20, the Bank rate was only 2 per cent., and during the greater

part of the time the open market discount rate ranged about 1 per cent., being frequently below that figure. This prolonged cheapness of money is the most striking fact in the history of the year so far as the Money Market is concerned. There were only four changes in the Bank rate. It stood at 3½ per cent. at the beginning of January, and was reduced to 3 per cent. on January 21, at which level it remained until April 7, when a further reduction to 2½ per cent. was made, to be followed a fortnight later by a reduction to 2 per cent. During nearly the whole period ending with April 28 the open market rate was considerably under the official *minimum*, the highest point touched being 2⅜ per cent., which was attained about the middle of February, when, owing chiefly to the revenue payments, bankers were unable to lend freely, and high rates, comparatively speaking, were paid for short loans. This condition of the market was in some degree produced by large gold withdrawals in January for South America, and in January and February for Russia and other Continental destinations; but, as a set-off, a good deal of gold arrived from various quarters, and the foreign drain was not, on balance, serious, especially as the stock of bullion in the Bank was large. Early in April considerable supplies were received from abroad, but withdrawals for Russia were again made, and the demand for that quarter never ceased during the remainder of the year, though the gold required was not taken from the Bank, except when none could be procured in the bullion market. Still the total taken for Russia during the year has been large. During the 11 months ended November about eight millions were sent to France and Germany, according to the Board of Trade Returns, and there is every reason to suppose that the greater part of this sum was really taken for Russian account, though Austria, no doubt, received some of it. The above-mentioned returns report no direct exports to either Russia or Austria, as gold for those countries is nearly always sent to Hamburg. During the summer and early autumn hardly any gold was taken from the Bank at all, except occasionally for

Russia, the whole demand being met in the bullion market by constant large arrivals from South Africa, Australia, and Portugal, supplemented by imports from miscellaneous sources. The arrivals from South Africa, which is now our most important source of supply, have amounted during the 11 months to £3,974,000, against £2,137,000 in 1891 and £1,652,000 in 1890. The Australian supply, though large, amounting to £3,000,000, is less than in 1891, when it was £4,124,000. There is every reason to expect that the South African supply will be largely increased in 1893.

On October 20 the Bank rate was raised to 3 per cent., at which point it has since remained. About the middle of October withdrawals from the Bank for Russia and Germany recommenced on a large scale, and a good deal was also taken for Egypt, where an abundant cotton crop and the general prosperity of the country caused a strong demand for sovereigns. Part of what was taken for Egypt, however, consisted of full-weight coin sent out in exchange for light sovereigns, the Egyptian Government being laudably anxious to maintain the prestige of the standard British coin and insure its ready acceptance throughout the country. These withdrawals were the cause of a rise in the open market discount rate from about 1 per cent. early in October to 2½ per cent., and for a short time in November 2¾ to 3 per cent. was obtained, as there was some uncertainty as to how much more gold would be taken from the Bank. It was found, however, towards the end of the month that, although about two millions was required for Russia, the bulk of it had been secured by the offer of high rates for gold in the bullion market, 78s. 1d. per ounce having been paid for some parcels, and in the second week of December the discount rates gave way, owing partly to considerable purchases of bills for Continental account. From the middle of December up to the end of the month the rate for three months' bank paper was very weak at 1¾ per cent., with few bills offering and a general absence of business in the

Money Market, which is very unusual at that time of year. Throughout the year there has been a large supply of short money, which was not appreciably affected by the hardening of the discount quotations in October and November. Bankers have suffered severely by this state of things, as they have had, as usual, to pay at least 1 per cent. for their deposits, while receiving during a great part of the year only ¾ per cent., and even ½ per cent., for loans, and having to take bills at 1 per cent. or a shade less. It is many years since the value of money has been so low as it was throughout 1892, for, although there have been years in which for several weeks in the summer the discount rate was under 1 per cent., these periods of quiescence have always been followed by a revival of activity, and sometimes by considerable pressure for money in the autumn. During 1891 there was even less disposition to lend than there was in 1892, but nevertheless the value of money was higher in the first than in the second of these years, partly because the process of calling in capital from most of the countries which owed it to us only began in 1891, and the supply was consequently smaller, and partly because several more or less severe minor crises occurred in that year as consequences of the great collapse of 1890. The ship of credit was still staggering "under bare poles" in the midst of a sea which was still running high, though the force of the hurricane which dismantled her was spent. To carry on the simile, the ship has been in much calmer water during the past 12 months, and something has been done to repair damages, but she is still leaking in places, and has to be handled very carefully.

In discussing the history of the Money Market we have been obliged to pass over various minor causes of temporary disturbance, such as the collapse last September of the Liberator Building Society, the London and General Bank, and other institutions which are known collectively as the "Spencer Balfour Group" of companies. Neither have we referred to the

"run" on the Birkbeck Bank, which, however, is worth mentioning as yet another instance of the truth of the maxim that no really sound bank can be stopped by a "run." The fall of 5½d. in the price of silver that has occurred during the year is not directly connected with the London Money Market, but, indirectly, it has influenced it to some extent, by creating distrust regarding the Eastern trade on the one hand, and by making clear the position in the United States on the other. The difficulties in which the two Indian banks referred to above have become involved were not due to the fall in silver, though they were, no doubt, rendered more formidable by it, but to their own bad management in the past. This fall, together with other circumstances, however, has opened the eyes of people in the United States to a fact which has long been patent to observers here—namely, that the purchases of silver under the Sherman Act were steadily tending to drive gold from the United States to Europe. A year ago, in reviewing the course of business in 1891, we recorded our opinion that even at that time the constant issue of Treasury notes against the forced purchase of silver had "rendered a certain amount of gold redundant." This opinion was not generally accepted even on this side of the Atlantic, but events have proved its correctness, for, though little gold has been sent from New York to London, a great deal has gone to the Continent, and the United States Treasury has been depleted of gold to an extent which has caused serious uneasiness among thoughtful people in the United States. It is quite plain that the Sherman Act will have to be repealed; but we fear that the silver party is still strong enough to delay the passing of a Bill rescinding it for some months to come, during which time the situation of the United States Treasury will continue to get worse. Until the Sherman Act is actually repealed no stability can be looked for in the silver market. Various opinions have been hazarded as to what price silver will fall to when the Act no longer exists, but none of them are worth much. Some good authorities look

for a further decline of about 8d., 30d. per ounce being regarded as the point which would force the shutting down of all the mines whose output is not needed in the present state of the demand for silver; but we think that a less fall than this would suffice to produce the necessary check on silver mining. There are many mines at work now which would not pay even at 40d., their owners having carried them on at a loss in the vain hope of "bluffing" the Governments of the various countries of the world into finding them a market for the metal. The result of the Brussels Monetary Conference must have convinced them that "the game is up," and that silver will in future be left to find its own level like all other commodities. This is the only possible solution of what is known as "the silver question," a question which would never have assumed its present dimensions but for the deep-seated though irrational notion, from which some even of the most sagacious men are not free, that gold and silver are different in character from other commodities. That delusion dies hard.

Business on the Stock Exchange has been very quiet throughout the year, so far as transactions in the majority of speculative securities are concerned, a condition of things which is the result of the general state of depression in trade and the want of confidence which still prevails as to the stability of prices in most departments of the "House." The same fact appears in another form in the remarkable appreciation which is shown in all securities of the first rank, the most important being a rise of 2¾ in Consols, which were recently dealt in at 98¼, and closed on Saturday, December 31, at 98, for both cash and the account. Two-and-a-Half per Cents. are 3 higher than a year ago at 96½. All other issues of the Trustee Security class show an appreciable advance in price, India Three per Cents. having risen 2¾ to 98, ditto Three-and-a-Half per Cents. 2 to 108½, Egyptian Three per Cents. 2½ to 103½, Metropolitan Board of Works Three-and-a-Half per Cents. 2½ to 112¾, and Local Loans stock 2 to 104½. In addition to this all British Corporation

stocks, the best of which rank almost on a level with the issues just mentioned, have risen considerably, and the Debenture and Guaranteed Preference stocks of the great railways have likewise been in request. Even "Contingent" Preference issues have, in the case of several railways, been raised to a level at which they pay barely 3 per cent. Coming to a lower grade of high-class investment securities, some of which are available for trustees, we still find evidence of the demand for safety even at the cost of a comparatively low yield. London and South-Western Undivided Ordinary has risen no less than 14 during the year to 176. This great rise is, no doubt, due in part to special causes, and perhaps we must attribute the advance of 5 in Great Western to 164 to the final abolition of the broad gauge, but Great Northern Preferred Ordinary has risen 4 to 114, and Brighton Undivided Ordinary 2 to 160; while the reductions in the prices of other Home Railway stocks are not great, except in certain instances, which can be explained on special grounds. London and North-Western, for example, is only about 2 lower at 172¾. The heaviest fall is in South-Eastern Deferred stock, which is 14 lower at about 75, while the Ordinary stock of this line is 6 lower at 115. In this case the decline is attributable to the management of the line, which has been so unsatisfactory that a powerful body of shareholders is endeavouring to induce the Board to alter its ways in certain respects. A fall of 3 in such a "gambler's counter" as Chatham Ordinary means little, but taken in connexion with the fall in South-Eastern Deferred it certainly suggests that if either company is to be prosperous in the future they must join forces instead of indulging in competition and mutual hostility. The decline in the Scotch stocks, in Hull and Barnsley, Great Northern Deferred, and North-Eastern Consols, is due to the dulness of the iron and coal trade, but considering the serious effect on its receipts, the fall of 6½ in North-Eastern is small. The support given to Home Railway stocks, in spite of the poor prospects in the immediate future of trade and the coming in force of the Rates and Charges

Act, demonstrates that the solidity of this class of property is regarded by the public as assured.

Among speculative securities the most serious fall is in those which depend for their value on silver. We need not refer to them in detail, but the greatest decline is one of 34 in Mexican Railway First Preference to 77½. The American Railroad Market has greatly disappointed speculators for the rise, who hoped that the advance established in 1891 would be continued. The holders of "Americans," however, took advantage of that advance to sell largely, owing chiefly to the silver policy of the United States. The American operators, who have only quite recently realized the danger and the folly of the course adopted by the Harrison Administration, bought all the stock sold here during the earlier part of the year, hoping, as usual, to be able to sell it to London again at higher prices, which it is now plainly seen they have no prospect of doing till the United States has extricated itself from the difficulties which its rash disregard of economic laws has produced. Good American gold bonds have been in fair request throughout the year, being bought by many investors who are not tied to trust securities. There are two exceptions to the general fall in American shares—namely, Lake Shore and Philadelphia and Reading. The rise in the latter is due to the success so far of the coal combination formed at the end of 1891, and maintained hitherto, in spite of considerable opposition. Possibly the rise of 6½ to 133¼ in Lake Shore, which stock touched 138 during the summer, may be due to the fact that the lines controlled by the Vanderbilts are, rightly or wrongly, regarded as stable properties, in some degree approximating in character to first-rate lines in this country.

The securities of the Canadian lines are all lower, those of the Grand Trunk having suffered the most. These stocks have long been at the mercy of rival bands of speculators, and the movements in them are of no public importance. The decline of 4 in Canadian Pacific shares is, no doubt, due to sympathy with the American Market.

In the Foreign Market prices have been, on the whole, well maintained, a fact which is remarkable considering the condition of the finances of several countries whose stocks are chiefly held outside their frontiers, and the uneasiness as to the future from which the student of Continental politics is never quite free, even where superficially matters look most hopeful. In several cases, however, the rise in prices is fully justified. The advance in Egyptian stocks, including the Turkish "Tribute" issues, is the natural outcome of the influence exercised by the United Kingdom in Egypt, which, by insuring honest and capable administration, has placed the country in a condition of prosperity to which it has never attained before, and which would certainly disappear if the policy of "scuttle" should ever prevail. The rise in Turkish stocks is, however, almost equally remarkable, and shows what can be done even in a country like Turkey by the same causes that have produced good results in Egypt. Egyptian Unified has risen 3¾ to 99, the Daira 5 to 98¾, Turkish "Defence" 3¼ to 94¼, Turkish "A" 11 to 55, ditto "B" 5 to 30½, and ditto "D" 3 to 21¼. The advance of 4 to 90 in Bulgarian Six per Cent. bonds may, we hope, be taken as indicating that Bulgaria has, in spite of Russian intrigues, gained in strength during the year. Several other "international" stocks have risen during the year, the most justifiable rise being that in Hungarian Four per Cents., which is, no doubt, due, in part, to the continued prosperity of the Dual Monarchy, and the wisdom and caution with which its gold purchasing operations preparatory to a resumption of specie payments have been conducted. On the other hand, Portuguese stock is 10 lower at 23, owing to the complete breakdown in the finances of Portugal. Spanish stock stands practically at the same price as a year ago, although the financial position of Spain is, so far as can be seen, rather worse than it was. The great fall in the Greek stocks is due to the grave financial condition of Greece, regarding which we prefer to say nothing at present, as some authoritative pronouncement as to what can be

done is looked for before very long. The fall in Mexican Government stocks is due to the decline in the price of silver, and not to any fear as to the credit of Mexico. There has been a distinct revival of activity in the South African market, owing to the growing prosperity of South Africa.

The improvement in the situation of Argentina and Brazil is, at the present time, of more general interest than the intrinsic importance of these countries would justify. The public hold Argentine and Brazilian stocks to a considerable extent, and, fortunately for the public, they are also largely held by finance houses and rich speculators. The fall in the premium on gold at Buenos Ayres from 280 per cent. to about 190 per cent. indicates that that part of the discredit attaching to the note issue which was due to political causes and to general commercial distrust has disappeared, and that the existing depreciation of the note is mainly due to over-issue. The commercial position of Argentina has been good throughout the year, the wool crop having been large, and generally things have gone well with the Argentine people, except that some regions have been troubled by locusts. The accession to power of President Saenz Peña without any important disturbances produced a good impression, but the views expressed by his Finance Minister, Dr. Romero, have so far been of a kind to disquiet holders of Argentine stocks, and their prices are not, consequently, so high as in the early autumn. Perhaps, however, we ought to make allowances for the exigencies of politicians who have to maintain their position in the face of rival aspirants for popular favour and of a jealous Congress, and in any case we shall not discuss the somewhat threatening language of the Argentine Finance Minister at the present moment. Neither need anything be said as to Brazil, except to note with satisfaction that the Rio de Janeiro exchange, which was as low as 11d. in the summer, has since risen to 14d., and is not much below that point now, a circumstance which is in favour of all who have money to remit from Brazil to London, among

others of the numerous Brazilian railways in which British capital is invested.

Considerable progress has been made during the year with the Baring liquidation, owing to the increased marketability of Argentine and Uruguayan issues. The whole of the firm's holding of Central Argentine Railway stock has been disposed of, and their liability to the Bank of England has been proportionately reduced. The balance outstanding must now be within "a measurable distance" of an amount which could be effectually dealt with by the parties interested in bringing the liquidation to a conclusion, and, if all goes well, this unique experiment in finance will by the end of the present year have been successfully carried out.

The year 1892 was very barren of events of economic importance, and we have already alluded to most of them. Among those which we have not had occasion to mention are the failure of Messrs. Günzberg, a Russian banking firm of some standing, the failure of Barker's so-called "bank," the great success of loans to the Transvaal and to Chili, and during the last day or two, the resignation of Dr. Plaza, the Argentine Financial Delegate. There has been some little improvement in Australian Government securities during the year, but the position of these colonies is still regarded with some uneasiness.

Statement of the amounts cleared at the London Bankers' Clearing-house in 1892 and 1891 (in thousands of £—000's omitted):—

—	1892.	1891.	Increase or Decrease.	
			Amount.	Per cent.
Jan. 1-March 30 (13 weeks)	1,720,686	1,854,377	-133,691	-7·2
March 31-June 29 (13 weeks)	1,561,867	1,739,896	-178,029	-10·2
June 30-Sept. 28 (13 weeks)	1,528,047	1,562,887	-34,840	-2·2
Sept. 29-Dec. 28 (13 weeks)	1,612,575	1,661,661	-49,086	-3·0
Total (52 weeks) ...	6,423,175	6,818,821	-395,646	-5·8

A.—Foreign Trade.

I.—Statement of the imports and exports of the United Kingdom for the first three quarters of the year, and for October and November, 1892 (000's omitted) :—

(*a*) Imports.

—	1892.	1891.	Increase or Decrease. Amount.	Per cent.
January-March	110,047	102,270	+7,777	+7·6
April-June	102,603	110,022	−7,419	−6·7
July-September	99,825	99,486	+339	+0·3
October-November ...	73,538	80,651	−7,113	−8·8
Total (11 months) ...	386,013	392,429	−6,416	−1·6

(*b*) Exports.

January-March	58,141	61,968	−3,827	−6·2
April-June...	53,720	62,098	−8,378	−13·5
July-September	58,620	63,409	−4,789	−7·6
October-November ...	37,274	39,957	−2,683	−6·7
Total (11 months) ...	207,755	227,432	−19,677	−8·6

(*c*) Exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.

—	1892.	1891.	Increase or Decrease. Amount.	Per cent.
1st Quarter	£15,424	£16,187	−763	−4·7
2d Quarter...	16,785	15,596	+1,189	+7·6
3d Quarter...	14,575	14,115	+460	+3·3
October-November ...	11,151	10,377	+774	+7·4
Total (11 months) ...	£57,935	£56,275	+1,660	+2·9

II.—Statement of the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in the foreign trade of the United Kingdom in 1892 (000's omitted) :—

—	Entered. 1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec. Am'nt.	p.c.	Cleared. 1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec. Am'nt.	p.c.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
Jan.-March ...	6,394	5,722	+672	+11·8	7,538	7,250	+288	+4·0
April-June ...	7,394	7,228	+166	+2·3	8,349	9,116	−767	−8·4
July-Sept. ...	8,234	7,647	+587	+7·7	9,324	9,324	−31	−0·3
Oct.-Nov. ...	5,081	5,059	+22	+0·4	5,933	5,790	+203	+3·5
Total (11 mths.)	27,103	25,656	+1,447	+5·6	31,204	31,511	−307	−1·0

B.—Home Trade.

I. (*a*).—Statement of the quantities of the undermentioned articles which were taken out of bond during the following periods (000's omitted):—

—	Tea.			Coffee.		
	1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec.	1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
1st Quarter... ...	52,158	49,164	+2,994	66	68	−2
2d Quarter... ...	50,127	49,453	+674	69	69	—
3d Quarter... ...	51,634	51,020	+614	61	61	—
Oct.-November ...	37,169	36,693	+476	42	45	−3
Total (11 months)	191,088	186,330	+4,758	238	243	−5

—	Cocoa.			Tobacco (unmanufactured).		
	1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec.	1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1st Quarter... ...	6,585	6,236	+349	15,069	14,487	+582
2d Quarter... ...	4,996	5,792	−796	14,901	14,808	+93
3d Quarter... ...	4,418	5,059	−641	15,424	15,053	+371
Oct.-November ...	3,601	3,332	+269	10,698	10,294	+404
Total (11 months)	19,600	20,419	−819	56,092	54,642	+1,450

—	Spirits.			Wine.		
	1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec.	1892.	1891.	Inc. o Dec.
	gals.	gals.	gals.	gals.	gals.	gals.
1st Quarter... ...	2,255	2,145	+110	3,573	3,582	−9
2d Quarter... ...	1,632	1,955	−323	3,907	4,126	−219
3d Quarter... ...	1,655	1,707	−52	3,055	3,189	−134
Oct.-November ...	1,622	1,561	+61	2,937	2,734	+203
Total (11 months)	7,164	7,368	−204	13,472	13,631	−159

I. (*b*)—Proportion per cent. of increases or decreases shown in I. (*a*) on the figures for 1891 :—

—	Tea.	Coffee.	Cocoa.	Tobacco.	Spirits.	Wines.
1st Quarter... ...	+6·1	−2·9	+5·6	+4·0	+5·2	−0·3
2d Quarter... ...	+1·4	—	−13·7	+0·6	−16·0	−5·3
3d Quarter... ...	+1·2	—	−12·6	+2·5	−3·1	−4·2
Oct.-November ...	+1·3	−6·7	+8·1	+3·9	+3·8	+7·5
Total (11 months)	+2·6	−2·0	−4·0	+2·7	−2·8	+1·2

II.—Statement of the traffic receipts of 20 English and Irish lines for the four quarters of 1892 and 1891 :—

—	1892.	1891.	Increase or Decrease. Amount.	Per cent.
	£	£	£	
To April 3 (14 weeks) ...	15,209,000	15,652,000	−443,000	−2·8
To June 26 (12 weeks) ...	14,838,000	14,940,000	−102,000	−0·7
To Sept. 25 (13 weeks)...	17,852,000	17,812,000	+40,000	+0·2
To Dec. 25 (13 weeks) ...	16,234,000	16,177,000	+57,000	+0·4
Total (52 weeks) ...	64,133,000	64,581,000	−448,000	−0·7

III.—Statement of the shipping entered and cleared coastwise during the following period (in reg. tons —000's omitted):—

—	Entered. 1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec. Am'nt.	p.c.	Cleared. 1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec. Am'nt.	p.c.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
Jan.-March ...	7,092	6,844	+248	+3·6	6,838	6,596	+242	+3·7
April-June ...	6,838	7,476	−638	−8·5	6,501	7,059	−558	−7·9
July-Sept. ...	7,633	7,686	−53	−0·7	7,275	7,213	+62	+0·9
Oct.-Nov. ...	4,931	4,914	+17	+0·3	4,779	4,704	+75	+1·6
Total (11 mths.)	26,494	26,920	−426	−1·6	25,393	25,572	−179	−0·7

IV.—Statement of the total gross revenue receipts paid into the Exchequer (not deducting sums paid transferred to local authorities) from the undermentioned sources during the following periods (000's omitted) :—

—	Customs. 1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec. Am'nt.	p.c.	Excise. 1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec. Am'nt.	p.c.
1st Quarter	4,910	4,755	+155	+3·2	7,556	7,263	+293	+4·0
2d Quarter	4,717	4,840	−123	−2·6	6,613	6,627	−14	−0·2
3d Quarter	4,701	4,652	+49	+1·0	7,020	6,884	+136	+2·0
4th Quarter	5,703	5,546	+157	+2·8	9,123	9,119	+4	—
Year ...	20,031	19,793	+238	+1·2	30,312	29,893	+419	+1·4

—	Stamps. 1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec. Am'nt.	p.c.	Post Office and Telegraphs. 1892.	1891.	Inc. or Dec. Am'nt.	p.c.
1st Quarter	4,787	2,946	+841	+21·6	3,520	3,370	+150	+4·4
2d Quarter	4,354	4,223	+131	+3·1	2,700	2,665	+35	+1·3
3d Quarter	3,765	3,780	−15	−0·4	3,330	3,240	+90	+2·8
4th Quarter	3,943	3,704	+239	+6·5	3,245	3,205	+40	+1·2
Year ...	16,849	15,653	+1,196	+7·6	12,795	12,480	+315	+2·5

V.—Statement of the number of members returned by trade societies reporting monthly to the Board of Trade, and of the number and proportion of members unemployed at the close of the undermentioned months :—

—	Societies.		Unemployed.		Proportion in 1890-91.
	No.	Members.	No.	Proportion.	
December 31, 1891 ...	19	245,427	10,713	4·37	—
January 31, 1892	19	245,588	12,197	4·97	3 37
February 29, 1892 ...	19	246,791	13,971	5·66	2·60
March 31, 1892	19	252,728	14,446	5·70	2·80
April 30, 1892	19	255,114	13,856	5·40	2·69
May 31, 1892	22	260,765	15,532	5·90	2·90
June 30, 1892	22	263,681	13,590	5.15	2·86
July 31, 1892	22	268,355	13,464	5·02	3·28
August 31, 1892	—	—	—	—	4·23
September 30, 1892 ...	22	263,674	16,794	6·25	4·48
October 31, 1892	22	268,658	19,684	7·33	4·45
November 30, 1892 ...	22	270,288	22,342	8·27	3·81
Average for 11 months ...	—	258.733	15,144	5·85	3·38

SUMMARY (000's omitted).

—		1892.	1891.	Increase or Decrease.	
				Amount.	Per cent.
London Clearing-house	£	6,423,175	6,818,821	−395,646	−5·8
Foreign Trade :—					
Imports	£	386,013	392,429	−6,416	−1·6
Exports (home) ...	,,	207,755	227,432	−19,677	−8·6
Do. (Foreign & Col.)	,,	57,935	56,275	+1,660	+2·9
Shipping :—					
Entered	tons	27,103	25,656	+1,447	+5·6
Cleared	,,	31,204	31,511	−307	−1·0
Home Trade :—					
Taken out of bond.					
Tea (11 months) ...	lb.	191,088	186,330	+4,758	+2·6
Coffee ,, ...	cwt.	238	243	−5	−2·0
Cocoa ,, ...	lb.	19,600	20,419	−819	−4·0
Tobacco ,, ...	,,	56,092	54,642	+1,450	+2·7
Spirits	gal.	7,164	7,368	−204	−2·8
Wine	,,	13,472	13,631	−159	−1·2
Railway receipts ...	£	64,133	64,581	−448	−0·7
Shipping, coastwise :—					
Entered (11 months)	tons	26,494	26,920	−426	−1·6
Cleared ,,	,,	25,393	25,572	−179	−0·7
Revenue :—					
Customs (year) ...	£	20,031	19,793	+238	+1·2
Excise ,, ...	,,	30,312	29,893	+419	+1·4
Stamps ,, ...	,,	16,849	15,653	+1,196	+7·6
Post, &c. ,, ...	,,	12,795	12,480	+315	+2·5

TRADE.

THE year has been less satisfactory than was looked for in some quarters. Trade has been disturbed by the Durham and other labour troubles, coupled with the surprises in the matter of the sizes of the crops of cotton, jute, wheat, &c., which have more than usually perplexed both merchants and manufacturers. No very serious embarrassments have been recorded, though in several trades and cities important failures have taken place. The retailer has done better than the wholesale trader; and, while middlemen have occasionally had indifferent results, they have fared better than either producers or consumers. One important feature is noticed in the enlarged consumption of several commodities, consequent on the lower range of values, and this is considered to indicate favourable prospects should supplies become reduced from the recent bountiful quantities. This is particularly exemplified in cotton. The last American crop gave the heaviest results, which, following a large crop the year before, led to the lowest prices on record for 50 years, and such an accumulation of stock in Liverpool as was never before known. In spite of such superabundance prices have had a wonderful rebound on the present crop outturn appearing to promise a reduction of two to two-and-a-half million bales, so that the rise has disturbed Manchester quite as much as did the preceding fall in prices. In like manner,

values in jute are recovering from the abnormal depression following the heavy crop of 1891.

The working-classes have been greatly assisted in meeting the depression in the labour market by food-products being more abundant and cheaper than the present generation remembers. Wages have in several directions been lowered, and further reductions, though not to any serious extent, are considered necessary to bring about a satisfactory adjustment in the manufacturers' position. The pouring in of such heavy supplies of cheap food from abroad has rendered agricultural prospects extremely depressed; these, in turn, have affected the traders in small country towns, but the general injury is much less evident than formerly.

In the manufacturing industries, the iron trade has been seriously upset by the Durham strike early in the year, which has brought about a partial dislodgment or transfer of trade from one district to another. The absorption of accumulated stocks has led to a later rectification of values, and the year closes with a more healthy market for this article. Copper and tin are also in a better position, mainly from American influences, though no particular amelioration of the depression in the trades utilizing these products has yet been recorded.

The timber trade has further improved its position from increasing consumption and only moderate supplies to meet it.

Importers of grain have had a trying year; and, from lack of accurate forecasts of crops in America and Russia, have failed to profit by the abundant supplies poured into our ports. The miller has fared little better, as the enormous quantities of flour shipped from America have forced prices to extremely low levels, so that the grain trade may be said to have been exceedingly unsatisfactory.

The tea and sugar trades have been void of any special disturbance; supplies have been ample, and prices mostly low. Coffee has had a higher level of value, consequent on reduced supplies. In provisions, the importers have had a fairly satis-

factory year for most foreign products. Increased imports of meat, both fresh and frozen, have led to a steady decline in values, especially of the former.

The trade in wool has been unsatisfactory to the merchant, though otherwise to the manufacturer, as supplies have been cleared at the lower range of values. The efforts of the home manufacturers to overcome the set-back caused by the M'Kinley tariff have been fairly rewarded with success, fresh openings being secured and new designs adopted that have even led to the shipments to America resuming former proportions.

Linens have been mostly quiet at Belfast and more active at Dundee, especially during the early months of the year, the trade at the latter place being augmented by the lower values in hemp and jute, consequent on the larger supplies.

The lace trade has had a better general result. Leather manufacturers have also been somewhat busier, consequent on the low prices of raw material, in which an unremunerative trade has been experienced.

The carrying trade has failed to profit by the heavier crops conveyed from one country to another. Freights have been generally much depressed, and with tonnage in excess of requirements the prospect for this year's construction of steamers and other vessels is not hopeful. This, in turn, will affect the great iron industry; and, as most of the other trades depend considerably on this, the outlook is not so encouraging for 1893 as desirable. The uncertainty concerning the revision of the M'Kinley tariff likewise checks enterprise equally with the unsettled silver question.

COTTON.

LIVERPOOL.—This market experienced during the past year both almost unexampled depression and also most unusual buoyancy and animation. At the beginning of the year middling American was quoted 4 1-16d., from which price there was a gradual decline to the end of March, when, under the weight of total stocks of 1,750,000 bales, 3 9-16d. was recorded

as the official value of middling on the spot, and some large lines changed hands at 3½d. It was then matter for speculation by how much the current American crop would exceed 9,000,000 bales. 3½d. for spot cotton proved, however, the turning point, stocks gradually got into stronger hands, that were prepared to wait for a profitable return on their investments. Moreover, cable and mail news now began gradually to assume positive shape that the acreage of the next American crop would be greatly reduced. The planting season was also considered rather unfavourable, and extensive inundations along the large rivers retarded planting, and suggested a late season. Based on these indications, speculations on both sides of the Atlantic gradually lifted prices until, by the middle of June, they stood ⅝d. above the lowest point of March, in spite of very meagre buying on the part of English spinners. From then to about the middle of September the market hesitated, with many small fluctuations, between 4 3-16d. and 3 15-16d. American operators were worried by attempted legislative interference with trading in "options." With the beginning of September the American crop news, both official and private, became more and more unfavourable and gave the signal for the starting of a "bull" campaign of extraordinary vigour. Prices rose almost without a pause until towards the end of November, when middling on the spot touched 5 5-16d. and August-September delivery 5 9-16d. In its progress the movement attracted support from many outside quarters, who bought more eagerly the higher prices rose, and the volume of business assumed quite unheard-of proportions, and crop estimates above 6½ million bales began to be looked upon as extravagant. A sudden reaction then caused a fall of nearly ½d. in futures within about a week; but as soon as the weak outside element had been liquidated continued reductions in crop estimates brought renewed strength, and the year ended at the highest prices, and with a very confident feeling that the near future would develop further animation and give "bulls"

plenty of chances to make large profits. "Cotton is king" has been a discredited saying for years, but is now once again a favourite maxim in Liverpool. East Indian cotton has been very quiet all the year. The comparative cheapness and superabundance of the American staple has reduced its consumption in Great Britain to below 2,000 bales per week, and prices of good fair Dhollera, which at the beginning of the year stood 11-16d. below middling American, were on the 30th of December 1⅛d. lower than the standard American grade. It may be remarked that the receipts at Bombay have lately shown considerable relative expansion, probably stimulated by the higher prices ruling. On the other hand, reports as to Indian crop prospects have become distinctly less favourable. Egyptian cotton has been in plentiful supply, and the rate of consumption has somewhat increased. Values have shared in the great upward reaction, to a less extent than either American or Surats, and the difference between good fair brown and middling American, which in January was 11-16d in favour of the former, was reduced to ⅛d. at the end of the year. The following statistics are taken from the circular of the Liverpool Cotton Association :—Highest, lowest, and average prices.—Middling American, 5 5-16d., 3 9-16d., 4 3-16d.; good fair Dhollera, 4⅛d., 2⅞d., 3½d.; good fair Egyptian, 5⅜d., 4¼d., 4 13-16d. Total import into Great Britain, 3,646,000; last year, 4,365,000. Total consumption in Great Britain, 3,130,000; last year, 3,479,000. Total stock end of December in Great Britain, 1,590,000; last year, 1,436,000.

MANCHESTER.—The cotton spinners and manufacturers have had, on the whole, a very unsatisfactory year, with at no time a very remunerative margin between the raw material and their product. During the first three months speculative sales of yarns and goods yielded a fair profit only where the purchase of the raw product covering the sale was deferred until the market had further declined; but in many cases yarns declined faster than cotton. At the end of the quarter a sudden

decline of silver of about 2d. upset the silver-using markets, and when the Liverpool market began to seriously advance Manchester found itself unable in many directions to do any business at all except at a distinct loss. Stocks of yarn became unwieldy, and in September it was found impossible to go on without operatives sharing the losses sustained by accepting a 5 per cent. reduction in wages. This being declined, a month's notice was given to the workpeople, and early in November a strike, stopping 15,000,000 spindles, began, and is still continuing at the time of writing, affecting not only the spinners immediately concerned, but also a number of manufacturers, who for want of yarn are obliged to either close their establishments entirely, or to resort extensively to short time. Even now after a two months' strike the margin between the price of middling American cotton and the average price of No. 32 twist is barely as good as it was at the beginning of the year. It was then 2½d., in April 2 3-16d., in July 2d., in September 1⅞d., and at the end of December 2 7-16d. The dividend list of spinning companies will be very meagre. Of 77 Oldham mills only 26 show a profit in their balance-sheets, while 51 have made losses aggregating £147,000. The results of the Ashton and Rochdale Limiteds are, however, slightly more favourable. The home trade in cloth has been fair, but without any prominent feature; and the export trade in goods has been, on the whole, also fairly satisfactory, a serious decrease in shipments to the Continent and some of the Eastern markets being set-off by increased supplies taken by South America, East India, and Japan. The yarn export trade, however, has been unsatisfactory throughout until last month, when an increase to Japan, Turkey, and Holland more than off-set further shrinkages in the quantities sent to India, China, Egypt, and France.

DRIED FRUIT.

(Messrs. Farley and Co.)—Currants.—The stock of last January—viz., 17,200 tons—was added to considerably before

the arrival of new, and with no satisfactory business in France, the spring demand was satisfied on a constantly falling market. Speculation lifted prices from 14s. 6d. to 17s. in the early summer months, when news of a new disease called "peronosperos" having done much damage to the growing crops caused further advance. The trade being fully alive to a shorter crop, a further rise took place before the opening of the new season, and 20s. may be taken as the lowest market quotation on September 1. Raisins—Valencia.—The past season was noticeable for the splendid and keeping quality of the crop, and the utter collapse of prices. After the first fall there was no further confidence, and values literally slipped away week by week. The one healthy feature was their restoration to public favour. Sultana.—The tremendous stock of 4,100 tons in January last was a great stumbling block, and as prices were firmly held until April, little or no progress was made in clearances. After that came the deluge, and from 30s. common receded to 20s., 22s. The fall came too late for any real good, and a large stock was carried forward to the new season. The crop was very large, variously computed at 31,000 to 34,000 tons. It says much for the vitality of the article in all parts of the globe when it is now stated that barely 4,000 tons remain in Smyrna. Muscatels have been plentiful and cheap. Good bunch fruit is far to be preferred to false layers. The public has now decided in favour of natural bunches, and shippers may as well discard layers altogether. The paucity of Malaga is now helped by Denia muscatel packers, and the surplus of the ordinary Valencia crop is thus got rid of with advantage to growers. Figs.—We must report a decidedly better season. Prices ruled moderately throughout.

ENGINEERING.

(Matheson and Grant.)—The year opens with a general feeling of depression, partly because trade has been declining during the whole of 1892, and because also of a vague uncertainty as to the immediate future. Prices are

everywhere lower, and the shares of industrial undertakings have fallen in value, but, notwthstanding the complaints of traders and manufacturers who take for their standard of comparison exceptional years of prices, the engineering trades are at present in a sound though quiet condition. Political and financial troubles are threatening on the Continent; and in the United States also difficulties are arising in regard to the silver and revenue questions which will probably involve considerable dislocations before they are set right. The effects of the Baring crisis are still being felt by the engineering trades which had such a large share in the spending of British capital in the South American countries, resources which were immediately withheld when the catastrophe came. Credit is, however, reviving in these countries, and despite the so-called reciprocity treaties by which the United States have endeavoured to divert trade from its natural channels there is already an improvement in the exports from Great Britain to the Brazils and Argentina. Bridge builders have been well employed during the past year, but exports have been restricted, and it is on the continued activity of the home demand that the principal works have had to depend. On all the main lines of railway renewals and widening of bridges are taking place, involving considerable expenditure in foundations and other work at the sites of erection. The growing traffic has rendered necessary also new or enlarged station buildings in London and the principal towns, and much more work of the same kind is needed in the immediate future. Iron and steel are every year taking a more important place in architectural designs, large hotels, theatres, banks, and warehouses being constructed with a metallic framework, which economizes space. The low price of steel has encouraged such methods. During the coming year improvement may be looked for in a renewed demand from Australia and South America, many much needed works having been postponed for want of money. The output capacity of the locomotive builders is at

present in excess of the demand, notwithstanding that there are fewer works engaged in this branch of trade than there were a few years ago. Unnecessary competition also has assisted in keeping prices low. In the colonies and elsewhere controversies regarding the respective merits of British and American engines still continue, but almost always under conditions which hinder any real comparison. When not only price and haulage capacity are taken into account, but also fuel, consumption, repairs, and road maintenance, the locomotives made in this country are not only the best but the cheapest. The results obtained with compound engines have not proved so entirely successful as to encourage the general adoption expected and claimed by their inventors. In America, however, further experiments are being made with new methods of compounding. The low prices of produce and the great depression which at present alarm all connected with agriculture must obviously affect injuriously those who depend on their custom. But the money available for spending by the industrial classes is increased by the low price of food, and the money formerly spent by landowners and farmers is merely diverted into other channels and reaches the manufacturers eventually. For some years past the agricultural engineers, especially those who make steam-engines and the heavier implements, have been widening their field ; they rely less than formerly on the British farmer and more on orders from other sources, both at home and abroad, which will utilize the same manufacturing appliances.

GRAIN.

WHEAT.—During 1892 the wheat trade in all its connexions has been of a character exceedingly unsatisfactory, and the present generation has never witnessed such a year of persistent and resistless decline in value. In the aggregate the downward tendency has been almost uniform and monotonous, and owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case it has been found impracticable to promote or organize any effective means of checking the accumulation of depressing influences. The prin-

cipal difficulty has been the intolerable burden of stocks in the United Kingdom when the campaign commenced, and which it has been impossible to reduce to any reasonable limits. Receipts have fully met requirements, and the congestion of stocks on the Continent has debarred any relief from that quarter, markets everywhere being glutted, owing, in the first instance, to the unwise over-buying which took place in view of Russian prohibition. The large reduction of values in America has been another important factor, and any speculative fluctuations which have occurred there have been of little benefit in the presence of heavy supplies; moreover, from the same cause, any climatic variations in the United Kingdom or elsewhere have been largely discounted. In consequence of this strong combination of unfavourable circumstances the outlook has all along been more or less discouraging, and the year closes with no small measure of gloom and despondency. On the other hand, notwithstanding the serious losses which have been incurred, the financial position of the trade has, on the whole, been satisfactory. Minor difficulties have arisen, but during the year there has been a remarkable absence of important failures, thus affording indisputable evidence of the real stability and monetary wealth of this important branch of British commerce. The year began with stocks over 2½ million quarters in excess of those of the previous year—a supply altogether unprecedented—and prices during January receded 2s. 6d. In February various rumours and the attendant speculative activity brought a recovery, but in March the weight of supplies, actual and prospective, again broke the market, and over 6s. per quarter was lost. April saw a further decline of 1s. 6d., but May found the general tone more healthy, consequent upon unfavourable crop news. At this juncture France, in view of the imposition of full duty on June 1, took 40 out of 60 cargoes at ports of call, after which values again gave way. The June markets made a reduction of 2s. to 3s., the feature of the month being the repeal of the Russian ukase, which occurred when prices were 10s. to 12s. below those current

at the date of its promulgation. July and August had drooping markets, with stocks as unwieldy as ever, and the cereal year broke any previous record by closing with a *Gazette* price of 29s. 4d. on August 27. In September a large influx of flour had a depressing effect upon the trade, and October business was poor, with an exceptionally weak tone. November and December further reduced prices, and the year closes with the *Gazette* price 10s. 7d. lower, while Californian wheat is 13s. to 14s., Australian 12s., and Russian 13s. down. The year's supplies have been more than three million quarters in excess of requirements. America has shipped over six million quarters more than last year, and India one million, while Russia has kept back two millions, and the home-grown crop is about 500,000qr. less than last year.

FLOUR is about 12s. per sack cheaper on the year for foreign brands, while London households are about 9s. The heavy American shipments, which have for part of the year been 40 per cent. of the total supply of American breadstuffs, have considerably crippled our trade. The cereal year's imports of wheat and flour equalled 23,000,000qr., against 18,940,000qr. in the previous season, and the British crop has given us about 7,400,000qr.

MAIZE has had an uneventful year, the demand having been mostly of a normal character. In spite of Russian prohibition supplies have been ample, and, failing other influences, the market has, to a great extent, moved in unison with wheat. The usual fluctuations have occurred in response to crop news, and the market has also been affected by weather and other conditions existing in the United Kingdom, but the general tendency has been downward, and recently the decline has been accelerated by the large supplies of home-grown barley available for feeding. According to position and quality prices are 6s. to 8s. down on the year.

BARLEY has lost 8s. to 10s. on the year, the main reasons for the decline being the full supply from abroad, and latterly the

heavy deliveries of home-grown grain of poor quality and in damp condition, coupled with the decline in wheat and maize. The demand both for the United Kingdom and Continent has only been on a moderate scale, and does not present any feature of special note.

OATS.—The home grown crop has not been sufficiently large to influence the market, and the temporary cessation of Russian supplies was scarcely felt, consequently prices, in sympathy with other feeding stuffs, are 5s. to 6s. worse on the year.

BEANS had a moderate amount of attention in the earlier part of the year, but of late the demand has been poor, and, with sufficient supplies available throughout, the year closes with prices 6s. to 8s. per quarter down.

HEMP.

(Messrs. Walter H. Hindley and Co.)—Manila Hemp.—A dull and dragging market prevailed for several months, and the value of current quality, which stood at £30 per ton in January, had gradually crumbled away until in July it was down to £24 10s. per ton. This shrinkage in prices was most distasteful to the chief dealers in the Philippines ; they therefore stored a large proportion of their supplies, hoping to profit by a falling off in the production which had been predicted to take place in the summer months. This, however, did not take place, and the dealers, finding their stocks becoming unwieldy, reluctantly accepted low prices from the chief consumers in the United States, who thus became possessed of a large slice of the year's supplies. The effect of these purchases was naturally to harden our market, and during August and September current quality had risen to £28 per ton. Quotations advanced through October until £32 was reached for near by and £31 for distant hemp. This proved to be the culminating point. All markets now seemed to be over supplied, and with an almost total absence of demand from consumers, prices began to fall in November, and have since shrunk away until at present the value of current hemp is only £27 per ton. The

year's production is the largest on record, and will be fully 750,000 bales, against a total of 670,000 bales in 1891. Sisal Hemp.—This fibre has become of very secondary importance in the European trade, as the binder-twine makers in the United States look on it every year with increasing favour, and outbid all other markets for the great bulk of the crop. Value opened in January at £21, rising to £25 per ton in February, only to fall away again to £21 in March. In May and June the price hardened up to £23 and £24, keeping quiet but steady at the latter price throughout July. In August and September the United States consumers having bought very largely in Mexico, both for prompt and future delivery, our market again began to advance until by October £30 per ton had been reached. At no time during the year have transactions here been upon anything of an important scale, and the advance in value during the autumn has scarcely increased our supplies by a single bale. At the close the value remains at £30 per ton, but with no trade passing. Mauritius Hemp.—With the increasing popularity of New Zealand hemp this fibre has become comparatively neglected by consumers, and is now of minor importance in the trade. In the early months of the year the value of fair quality was £25, but with a sluggish demand it fell in April-May to £19 per ton. In the latter month the hurricane which devastated the Island of Mauritius damaged the hemp plants very seriously, and in anticipation of short supplies here the price rose to £23, but the slack demand again influenced prices unfavourably, so that by July £20 per ton was the quotation. Thence to the end of the year the amount of business done was inconsiderable. In October the value of fair had again reached £25, but from then to the present time a flat tone has prevailed, and £23 per ton is the closing value. New Zealand Hemp.—As with Manila hemp, the first half of the year did not show much to chronicle, prices opening at £21 to £22 for fair Wellington, and gradually easing off until £18 per ton was touched in July. Then, with a demand both here and in the producing market from the United States,

value mended during the following months, until in October £26 was reached, remaining at about this figure until the close. Stocks fell in the autumn to almost vanishing point, consequently the trade in this country is now on an insignificant scale. On the other hand, an unusually large business has passed in New Zealand for shipment to America, where this fibre is in much favour with the manufacturers of binder-twines. Russian Hemp.—The movements in this market have been within unusually narrow limits, never at any time exceeding 30s. to 40s. per ton. Quality of the season most irregular, fine spinning sorts being very good, whilst roping qualities have proved most inferior. Present value w.d., S. F. S. P. R. H. £25 10s. and R. H. £20 c.i.f. east coast. Tow has become very scarce in the later months owing to the extra demand early in the season caused by the high price of jute. Italian Hemp.—This hemp has steadily improved in value all the year, and the firmness of the market has been recently accentuated by the decreased yield of the new crop now just beginning to come into the market. To-day's value of P. C. £30 10s. and G. £32 10s. c. and f. England.

HIDES, SKINS, &c.

(Messrs. Dyster, Nalder, and Co.)—The leather trade of 1892 furnishes many features of similarity to the incidents of last year. Unfortunately, the resemblance is confined to those items, only too numerous, which were specially undesirable, and it is difficult to find any experience of importance which can reasonably bear a favourable construction. The Board of Trade statistics have steadily furnished material which destroyed any hope that may have existed of progressive business, and the accumulated figures of 11 months demonstrate the fact of a general contraction. The conditions on which prosperous business depends have been singularly absent. Acute agricultural depression and labour strikes may be mentioned as internal influences forcible in the opposite direction. And, looking abroad, neither diminution of protective duties nor

lessened competition is encountered. The future is not fettered with a high cost of production in any branch of the industry. The opposite is the case, and hope of better business may reasonably be based on so tangible a factor. The suggestion must, however, be made with qualification, for in the actual production of leather the indications noted in recent years of the lessened share borne by the home trade have become rather more pronounced.

HOPS.

(Messrs. Manger and Henley.)—The year now closing has been of an eventful character. There was a promise of a bountiful crop of hops up to Midsummer. With the cold nights at the end of June and early in July, a most persistent and insidious attack of vermin began, which resulted in sad disaster to many who neglected to wash their hops at once and keep them clean. The yield was about two-thirds of a crop of good quality, and was only obtained at great cost and vigilance on the part of the growers. The continental crop was again very short and of mixed quality, owing partly to the great heat that was experienced in August. That in America and on the Pacific coast was together also less, so that all round there was a shortage, and there yet remains a considerable quantity to be made up. The brewers gradually became aware of this fact, and wisely absorbed the English growth and most of the Californians. The season opened with prices ranging from £4 to £7 ; but the crop, coming down so much shorter than expected, induced brewers to make extensive purchases, and a rapid rise of about 30s. per cwt. resulted. When pressing requirements had been satisfied, however, there was some giving way, but the market closes very firm with values again showing an upward tendency. Those that still think there are plenty of hops will have to be satisfied with the few remnants of growths that are left. Therefore the prospect of the English grower for the 1893 crop is most encouraging.

INDIGO.

(Messrs. Patry and Pasteur, Limited.)—The total quantity landed and delivered has been about the same as in 1891, but both, owing again to short supplies of Kurpah, are considerably below those of former years, and our present stock is reduced to a lower figure than it has been for a great many years at this period. The chief feature in the year's transactions has been the very moderate supplies offered in the four quarterly sales, and the large quantities disposed of privately in the interval of the auctions, showing the strong demand which has ruled throughout the year, and which has resulted in the important advance in prices which has taken place. This seems rather extraordinary, for whilst in 1891 we had to deal with a crop of only about 100,000 maunds from Calcutta and a small supply from Madras, and had a year ago witnessed declining prices and a languid demand throughout the year, we have now to report the absorption of a crop in Bengal of 150,000 maunds, and an active and gradually advancing market during 1892. At Calcutta the public sales, which commenced on November 17, established a currency of 9d. to 1s. advance on our July sales' rates, the buyers for America and the Gulf being the chief operators. Since then, however, Continental buyers, who at first had held aloof, have come into the market, and prices, both at the sales and by private contract, have further risen and now show a further advance of 3d. to 6d. per lb. (Stansbury and Co.) Notwithstanding the indifferent returns of the trade of the country for 1892, as indicated by the Board of Trade, indigo has been exceptionally fortunate; the low prices ruling and the increased consumption make a comparison with the preceding twelvemonth interesting and satisfactory. Planters in Bengal shipped during the season of 1890-91 5,219 chests to this port, and in 1891-92 only 2,094 chests. The rise in value will, unfortunately, increase the demand for the German substitute, but we do not anticipate any preference for this commodity in lieu of the vegetable dye, though it may

be taken and used where the legitimate dye is not easily obtainable. The difference in value between the prices current and and those quoted this time last year is about 1s. 9d. per lb. The shipments from Calcutta of the new crop of Bengal are wired (under date December 24) as 15,800 chests.

IVORY.

(Messrs. Hale and Son.)—At the close of 1892 prices for soft ivory compare very favourably with those realized at the same time last year, except in a few isolated instances, principally in ball descriptions. Hard ivory, which has been in large supply, is slightly easier. The quantity and quality brought forward at public sale has been fully up to that of past years, the imports of West Coast African having decidedly increased. The market on the whole has been a good one, and notwithstanding a failure in the London trade, followed by the cholera scare, prices were not affected. The rates ruling at the present moment are moderate, more particularly for hard descriptions, and the future appears much more favourable for both buyers and sellers, the Baring liquidation being now practically settled and confidence again restored ; the action of the new American Legislature is also bound to be advantageously felt, particularly by the Sheffield trade.

JUTE.

(Messrs. Walter H. Hindley and Co.)—The excitement which characterized the close of 1891 continued into the present year, and the value of first native marks had risen quickly from £17 in early January to £22 per ton by about the end of the month. Consumers would not buy at this level, so that the inevitable reaction set in, and through February, March, and April the quietness became more and more intensified. Holders meantime professed confidence that the shortness of supplies would eventually drive prices higher than they had been before. Through May and June the desire of some shippers to sell new crop for shipment caused a pretty general effort on the part of holders of old jute to quit their stocks, but they could make no

perceptible progress, and it was not until July, when the value of native marks was only £13, that consumers would buy to any extent. In the two following months considerable clearances were made, the value going as low as £10 in September. New crop opened in April with a few sellers at £20 per ton, but with increasing efforts on the part of shippers to make sales, and the almost total absence of demand, by June prices had fallen to £12 10s. per ton. Through that and the three following months unusually extensive sales for shipment were made. It was believed that the crop would be an enormous one, and so great was the emulation amongst shippers to attract buyers, that by September the quotation had fallen to £9 3s. 9d. per ton. It became evident in September and October that, large as were supplies, they had been considerably oversold. Balers in Calcutta in many cases declared their inability to fulfil their contracts, therefore shippers were driven into the home markets to cover their sales. Prices immediately began to harden, and with sundry fluctuations, the value of first native marks had reached £12 10s. per ton by the middle of December. Crop 1891-92 totalled about 1,600,000 bales; it is estimated that crop 1892-93 will reach to about 2,500,000 bales.

LEATHER.

(Messrs. Fisher, King, and Co.)—The course of business in the leather trade during the past year has been disappointing, and can scarcely have yielded satisfactory results to the majority of those engaged in the industry. It was hoped in January that the low range of prices current would stimulate demand and lead to an increased consumption of leather, but unfavourable circumstances prevented the looked-for improvement. The export trade, restricted by extreme foreign tariff impositions and hindered by financial difficulties, which yet embarrass some of the South American markets, contracted in extent and progress in the development of home requirements, was prejudiced by the depressed condition of the agricultural classes and by the trade disturbances and losses which re-

sulted from the numerous strikes and disputes which took place between employers and employed in many of the most important departments of British industry and manufacture. Under such conditions it could scarcely be expected that the home consumption of leather would materially enlarge, but circumstances tend to show that domestic trade increased to some extent, since stocks of leather did not accumulate excessively, although supplies were fully as large as those of former years ; and it appears probable that, notwithstanding the shrinkage of the exports, the volume of business upon the whole declined only in very limited degree, if, indeed, it was not fully sustained.

(Messrs. Whittard, Crisp, and Co.)—The continued large importation of foreign leather renders the realization of reasonable profits to home producers exceedingly difficult. Added to other adverse influences some disastrous failures have occurred ; the principal of these may be undoubtedly traced to unwise and reckless trading, but others to the strain of the severe and unwholesome competition now so prevalent. At the moment of writing the rates ruling for raw and tanning materials are more favourable for the tanner, stocks of leather are in moderate compass, and the commercial atmosphere is clearer ; hence we feel the future is more hopeful, and improvement may fairly be looked for.

LINENS.

BELFAST.—The general tone of the linen trade during 1892 has been one of quietness, without any real activity in any department. Flax.—No doubt the bad crop of 1891 interfered with the acreage of the current year, the decrease being about 4,000 acres, and the present season's fibre is turning out wretchedly also. Fibre suitable for fine yarns has been very difficult to get, and prices have ruled for some time back well in favour of farmers. Yarns.—The year opened fairly well in the spinning branch, but towards the middle of same prices for the range of weft lines fell away. During the past couple of weeks they have

shown a hardening tendency, and some spinners refuse absolutely to look ahead unless at an advance. Up to date, however, no definite advance has taken place all over. There is little doubt that, if manufacturers are not paying more actual money for the same counts, in quality the yarns have deteriorated, which is even a more serious state of affairs. Cloth has ruled quiet in almost all makes, and shows little improvement as the year draws to a close. Bleached linens for home consumption have been very disappointing, the season's trade not being nearly up to expectation. Official figures as regards exports show a smart increase, but it is not unlikely that large quantities of goods are shipped solely on speculation, and will be slaughtered sooner or later.

DUNDEE.—During the first nine months of the year the linen branches in this district were in a fairly active and satisfactory condition, but for the last three months things have not looked quite so bright. Flax has risen 15 to 20 per cent., and so far neither the spinner nor the manufacturer have been able to secure even a fraction of this advance. The flax crop over the whole Continent is a short one, but the quality is fully equal to last year's, and as foreign spinners have been buying persistently for some weeks, values have rapidly risen, Riga crowns, which were obtainable at £16 10s., now selling at £19 ; whilst Yarapol Seretz has gone up from £24 10s. to £29. The importation of flax and tow to the east of Scotland has been 48,050 tons, against 49,854 tons in 1891, and 54,758 tons in 1890. There has been little fluctuation in the prices of flax yarns throughout the year, the demand taking off production, but the trade is now so unprofitable that both spinners and bleachers have been compelled to reduce their production about 25 per cent. The foreign demand for linens has kept up well throughout the year ; looms have been always busy, and at a fairly profitable range of prices. The home trade, however, has not been so satisfactory, and the prospects for the new year are not so bright as we would like to see. To all engaged in the jute

trade the present year is, perhaps, the most unsatisfactory we have seen for a long time. The extraordinary fluctuation in values made it impossible for any one to see what course to pursue, and so all have suffered. The short crop of jute of 1891 was unexpected, and forced prices up from £12 10s. in September to £21 10s. in February. This rise was, however, not followed by a corresponding advance in yarns and cloth. Short time had to be resorted to by some, whilst others closed their works altogether, causing values all round to recede, and those who held stocks of any kind to suffer a heavy loss. This year's crop of jute is, however, a very large one, and in consequence we have seen the lowest range of quotations ever known in the trade—viz., first marks selling at £9 5s. to £9 15s.; and as spinners have bought largely at these low rates there is every prospect of a profitable trade for 1893. The importation of jute this year is 175,128 tons, against 230,808 tons in 1891, and 239,434 tons in 1890. Jute yarns have steadily declined during the year, weft cops selling at 1s. 11d. in February, 1s. 6d. in June, 1s. 3d. in August, and at present at 1s. 2d., with warps in the same proportion. Cloth is in much the same position, 10½oz. Hessians having fallen from 2½d. in January to 1¾d. at present time. The failure of Messrs. Lipman and Co. has had an adverse effect on the trade, but, on the whole, there is a steady demand for cloth, and with a low range of values this is likely to continue, so that we look forward with every hope that 1893 will be a prosperous year to all engaged in the jute trade.

LINSEED AND COTTONSEED.

(Messrs. Ashton, Edridge, and Co.)—The noticeable features during the year have been the lower range of prices in linseed, caused mainly by the fall in the value of silver, and the diminished sale of cakes, and that cottonseed, having gone freely into consumption (stocks in U. K. being very small), has fully maintained its value, notwithstanding that the crop is

currently reported to be considerably in excess of 1891, which was the largest on record.

LINSEED CAKES.

(Messrs John A. Whealler and Sons.)—During the past year the trade has generally been of an unsatisfactory character. With two seasons of indifferent crops and unprecedentedly low values of all farm produce, dealers have found little encouragement, and although imports have been to a fair extent, and have apparently gone into consumption, it has been difficult and unremunerative work. The last winter was, as a rule, a mild and open one, characteristic also of the present up to the last week of the year. In the early part of the year, with a very moderate inquiry, values soon declined 15s. to 20s. per ton from opening values, a drooping tendency continuing till June-July, when quotations were noted fully 30s. per ton under those current January 1. A small hay crop somewhat stimulated the demand, and during the summer months the best trade of the year was experienced; since, with bad quality and low rates for wheat, barley, maize, &c., much of which has been used for feed purposes, the trade in cakes has been difficult and unsatisfactory.

METALS AND MINERALS.

London Copper.—Fluctuations during the past year have been within a narrow margin, the range being from £43 7s. 6d. to £48, with the visible supply showing a tendency to increase and a poor consumptive demand, prices fell away, the lowest point being touched in February, but during March rumours were circulated of an attempt among producers to come to an agreement to restrict the output, and speculators purchased freely, rushing values up 85s. For the next two or three months prices moved according as reports were spread as to the successful issue or otherwise of the negotiations, which were somewhat protracted, but a basis of restriction having been arrived at in May, £47 12s. 6d. was paid. The visible supply, however, which had fallen from 57,462 tons in January to 53,828

tons in April, then commenced to be rapidly swelled by increased shipments by producers, especially in America, who were anxious to get as much copper away as possible before the agreement came into force, and the trade demand being poor, speculators lost heart, and values dropped during September to within 5s. of the lowest point of the year. The effects of the restrictive policy, however, began to appear by a decided shrinkage of the visible supply, and the trade being stimulated to larger purchases thereby, prices steadily moved up until £48 was realized towards the end of November, when a strong effort was made by starving English smelters of furnace material to compel them to take G.M.B.'s, but the general trade was not flourishing enough to make the operation successful, and with a falling silver market, which gave a decided check to the demand from India, speculators realized causing a reaction, and the market closes at £46 15s. cash. TIN, with a limited consumptive demand, gradually declined during the first two months of the year, but after a few weeks of steady prices a sharp upward movement set in owing to extensive purchases on American account, which were made in preparation for the increased duty which was to come into effect on July 1, 1893, and continued until the latter end of June, when foreign cash stood at near £104 per ton, or some £16 above the lowest level of the year, touched in February. These high prices, however, showing a good profit, extensive realizations occurred, not only among operators here, but also on account of American buyers and the decline during the next few months was almost as continuous as the rise previously, £92 3s. 9d. being accepted about the middle of September, the visible supply having increased during that time by nearly 2,000 tons. A better silver market gave values a fillip, and about £3 was recovered during the next month, but the result of the American Presidential election then unsettled the market, and after various minor fluctuations there was a heavy drop owing to reports that the repeal of the impending duty would be dealt with in extra Session. News, however,

coming to hand that nothing would be attempted in the matter until next autumn, a smart reaction ensued and latterly the market has been very susceptible to the various influences, moving very sharply. Lead has had a very uneventful market. The demand has been moderate, and supplies being ample, prices, though fairly steady during the first half of the year, have moved gradually down since June, Spanish touching £9 16s. 3d. during this month, showing a decline of 23s. 9d. from the rate current at the beginning of the year, which was the best seen. A recovery of 2s. 6d. has since taken place, but the quantities available are so ample that no great improvement is probable at present. Spelter, with but slight fluctuations, has gone from bad to worse. Opening at £22 15s. for ordinary, prices steadily dropped until £21 2s. 6d. was touched, the decline being mainly due to increased supplies from America, but a better demand then sent prices up to £22 12s. 6d. The American product, however, underselling Silesian, caused the European combination to reduce their *minimum* selling price and a steady fall ensued, which was subsequently accentuated by the virtual breaking up of the convention in September, when £18 17s. 6d. was accepted. The low prices stimulated the galvanizing trade and some recovery resulted, but prices again gave way, and £18 5s. was taken during the earlier part of this month, though the tone is now steadier at a slight advance. Antimony has also pursued an almost uninterruptedly downward course, opening at £54 and closing at £45 after having been £2 lower. Quicksilver.—The demand has been poor and importers have had to continually lower their prices. Opening at £8, there was a steady fall until £6 15s. was reached, but then there was a recovery of 7s. 6d. Renewed weakness, however, developed and prices sharply dropped to £6 7s. 6d., and after a rise of 2s. 6d. to £6 2s. 6d., finishing at the lowest point of the year.

(Stedman, Crowther, and Co.)—The metal trade was much contracted in 1892, and, viewed by the light of the Board of Trade returns, showed a very serious retrograde movement.

Many markets abroad did not recover from their financial difficulties, and shipments were limited. At home, engineering and construction suffered from the same cause, and freights were too unremunerative to permit of any great expansion in shipbuilding. The fluctuations in silver much affected Eastern business, and caused the buying thence to be of a spasmodic nature. The variations in the copper market were kept within comparatively narrow limits, but, owing to restricted output, the year closes with values almost at their best. America, in her character of largest producer, proposed and carried an arrangement whereby European output was limited to 5 per cent. under the previous year's production, and the output from American mines to 10,000 tons above the tonnage of 1891. This agreement came into effect on the 1st of July, and under its influence American shipments to Europe were much smaller. Imports from Chili increased but little, whilst those from Australia and Japan were considerably less. The scarcity of orders prevented consumers from having sufficient confidence in higher values to more than cover their actual requirements, and they worked with bare stocks throughout the year. Despite erratic buying, India took copper and yellow metal in quantities fully equal to those of last year.

Barrow-in-Furness.—The hematite iron trade on the north-west coast of England during the year 1892 has been of a very unsatisfactory character. The demand from all sources has been small, and, although the position was a fairly active one in the beginning of the year, the market began to show less and less briskness as the year advanced. The greatest difficulty in the way was that caused by the Durham strike and the necessary stoppage of the furnaces in the district for 12 weeks, owing to a scarcity in the coke supplies. It had one good effect, however. It cleared away a great deal of the stock of hematite which had accumulated in store yards as warrants. Commencing with January the stocks stood at 144,977 tons. At the end of April they were at 98,580 tons, in the beginning of June 64,832 tons,

in the beginning of July 45,643 tons, and at the present time they represent 38,913 tons. Prices during the year did not vary very much. They commenced at 47s. 11d. for Bessemer mixed numbers, dropped in April to 46s. 4d., rose in August to 49s., and since then they have been slightly on the decline, and now stand at 46s. 3d. net cash. The consumption of forge and foundry iron has been small, and the only customers of any note have been local steelmakers, who have required a bulk of metal for the heavy rail and the plate trades. On foreign, Continental, and colonial account the trade in pig iron was quiet, and on American account little was done, leaving the markets under the control of home buyers. In the beginning of the year there were 43 furnaces in blast. Now there are only 38 blowing, while 38 are standing idle. In the district some of the furnaces have occasionally been employed in the production of spiegeleisen, for which the demand has not been strong, while confined almost absolutely to local users. Twenty per cent. qualities have come down in price from 77s. 6d. at the beginning of the year to 75s. at the close of the year. The trade in ferro-manganese has been small, and 80 per cent. qualities have generally fetched £11 10s. per ton. The trade in iron ore has been on a very small scale, and, although the pits are not half so actively employed as they used to be, raisers of native ore have had to compete against Spanish qualities, which can be bought delivered at west-coast furnaces at as cheap a price as native ore namely, about 9s. per ton. In the steel trade there has been much activity throughout the year so far as heavy rails are concerned, the mills at Barrow and in West Cumberland being briskly employed and producing probably 7,000 to 8,000 tons of finished steel per week. The orders have been chiefly on colonial, Japanese, and Russian account. Orders are still largely held, but the evidences do not favour as brisk a trade during 1893 as experienced during the present year. Prices have not varied much. They commenced in the beginning of the year at £4 2s. 6d. for heavy rails, and during the course of the year

they advanced to £4 5s., but they have since declined, and are now at £4. In steel shipbuilding material a fairly good trade was experienced for the first nine months of the year, when plates were quoted at £6 5s., but when these prices were reduced to £5 10s., and even £5 per ton, local makers found themselves unable to compete, and for the past two months the mills have been stopped altogether. There has not been much demand for plates or other qualities of shipbuilding material for a month or two past. In tin bars a fairly good trade has been done during the year, despite the M'Kinley tariff, and it is expected the new conditions in America will soon reopen the markets to British makers. In blooms, slabs, billets, and general merchant qualities of steel the demand has been very quiet and remains so. Shipbuilding has not been so busy a year as last, but there has been a large tonnage here at Barrow representing 27,080 tons and 35,300 indicated horse-power of engines. Last year the totals were 31,444 tons and 26,975 indicated horse-power. The shipping trade has been exceedingly quiet throughout the year. The exports of pig iron and steel during 1892 from west-coast ports amounted to 704,445 tons, compared with 914,760 tons last year, a decrease of 210,315 tons.

BIRMINGHAM.—The year has been an unsatisfactory one for all the industries of this district, except, perhaps, coal mining, in which prices and wages have been successfully upheld, in spite of declining trade, by the strength of the miners' unions. It is true that many of the dividend declarations by local industrial companies in the early part of the year were satisfactory ; but in most cases these dividends were the results of the previous year's working. In the iron and steel trades, at all events, profitable working this year has been the rare exception. In many cases dividends have been entirely suspended, and in others companies have gone into liquidation. It has been a record year as regard failures, more particularly in the sheet-iron trade, which up to a few years ago was the most progressive in

South Staffordshire. It is calculated that within the last 12 months some 17 works of this description have come to a stand-still owing to trade depression, and especially the slackness of the galvanized-iron trade, upon which sheet makers are largely dependent. Prices of all kinds of iron and steel, both crude and finished, have been steadily declining throughout the year, though the standard for marked bars—now an obsolete criterion of the trade—is still maintained at £8, to which it was reduced at the beginning of last year. Common unmarked iron, however, has receded about 10s. within the last 12 months, under the influence chiefly of the South Wales competition. Both from South Wales and the North of England wrought iron is now being sent into the Birmingham district at prices with which local makers cannot compete. Galvanized sheet iron has fallen about £1 in the 12 months, the present quotation for 24 g. sheets, f.o.b., being about £11 10s. Black sheets have dropped from 5s. to 7s. 6d., and there has been a corresponding decline in hoop iron, tube and nail strip, plates, angles, &c. The reaction in pig iron has not been so marked, owing mainly to the great curtailment of production which took place in the early part of the year, in consequence of the unprofitableness of prices. The Durham strike and the suspension of production in Scotland contributed to uphold the price of pig in other districts, but perhaps the chief factor in supporting pig iron has been the artificial dearness of coal. Steel of every kind has shared in the downward course of the wrought-iron trade; yet arrangements are in progress at several of the leading local works for largely extending the production of steel during the coming year. Owing partly to its land-locked position the Midland iron trade is not so dependent on export markets as the iron-working districts of the north and south; but it has nevertheless suffered a good deal from the scarcity of orders from Australia and India, the former being the leading market for galvanized sheet iron. Within the last few months, however, there has been an improved demand not only

for iron, but for many other manufactures of this district from South America. South Africa, also, is an improving market for iron and hardware, and though English iron is virtually excluded from the United States by the M'Kinley tariff, the American demand for various kinds of hardware, cycles, guns, anvils, metallic bedsteads, chemicals, &c., has been quite up to the average. Constructive engineers have on the whole been well employed on railway-bridge and girder work for home and colonial undertakings, and there is a large amount of work of this kind still under execution. Most of the railway rolling-stock companies also have been profitably employed for India, South America, and parts of the Continent. Brassfounders have had a bad year, owing rather to increased competition than to diminished trade. With few exceptions, the experience of cycle manufacturers in Birmingham, Coventry, and Wolverhampton has been decidedly unfavourable. Machinists and engineers make the same report. On the other hand, the military gun and ammunition branches have been exceptionally active on Government account, but the sporting-gun trade continues depressed, largely owing to the severity of Belgian competition in guns of the cheaper kinds. Machine-made guns are in growing request for sporting as well as for military purposes. The iron and steel wire trade is still suffering from German competition. In wirework, also, Belgian and German competitors are securing the bulk of the export orders. English makers, however, maintain their position in screws, though it is seriously menaced by the establishment of screw works in this country by an American syndicate. There has been a great development in the lamp manufacture of the district, which in metal goods, at all events, is successfully holding its own against foreign competition. Chandeliers and gas fittings are in generally diminished request, owing to the progress of electric lighting on the one hand and the reaction in favour of oil lamps on the other. The steel-pen branch is steadily progressive. The jewelry and silver and electro-plated ware branches have been

throughout the year in a somewhat depressed condition. The only serious labour difficulties have been in the building, wrought-nail making, and iron-plate working branches. Two of these disputes have been settled practically in favour of the workpeople ; the third is still undecided.

CARDIFF.—Trade throughout South Wales and Monmouthshire has been very depressed throughout the year. Notwithstanding that the demand for steam coal has been above the average, the exports for the year exceeding those of last year by about half a million of tons, yet prices since February last have steadily dropped from 13s. 3d. to 10s. per ton, whilst contracts have been made with some of the large steamship companies at as low a figure as 8s. 9d. This has had a most disastrous effect on the wages of the colliers, who have had to submit to reductions during the year amounting in the aggregate to about 30 per cent. Amongst the iron and steel trades a worse state of things has prevailed. The Tredegar works, which usually employ about 1,500 men, have been entirely closed. Rails and bars have touched a lower price than they have done for years, Bessemer bars having fallen from £4 12s. 6d. to £4 10s., and in some cases to £4 7s. 6d. per ton, while rails, which in the early part of the year realized £4 3s., are now selling at £4, and in some instances at £3 17s. 6d. per ton. Except for colliery lines, very few orders have come into the district, the most notable being that for 40,000 tons of rails for the Transvaal Railway, which was secured by the Ebbw Vale Company, but at a price which is declared to be under £4 per ton. The tin-plate trade industry has suffered greatly through the imposition of the M'Kinley tariff, and at least one-third of the mills are at present idle. Prices have ranged from 11s. 7½d. to 12s. per box, which barely covers cost of production.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND.—In respect of volume of trade executed, the year has been generally a fairly satisfactory one in this district. All the larger establishments were well employed for at least three-fourths of the period, and it is only

since the winter set in that a real scarcity of work has been experienced. Even yet, in some departments, a good many contracts remain for completion, and were it not that new orders are exceedingly scarce, and there is no prospect of demand reviving soon, the outlook might be regarded with equanimity. The feeling of comparative satisfaction, however, with which the results of 1892 are regarded are greatly modified when it is reflected that, without exception, it may be said the work overtaken has yielded but a poor return to the capitalist—in many instances has resulted in a serious loss. Some large concerns have been running for the greater part of the year at a positive sacrifice, and considerable misgiving is felt as to the state of affairs which the annual balance sheets will disclose. On the Clyde there were launched during the 12 months 186 sailing vessels of 161,452 tons and 164 steamers of 174,962 tons—a total of 350 vessels of 336,414 tons, which compares with 326,475 tons in 1891. With the exception of 1890, when the aggregate was 349,995 tons, the total for the year is the highest of the last nine years. The indicated horse power of the marine machinery turned out was 289,564, the figures in the previous year being 308,886. It is calculated that there is tonnage on hand for 190,000, which looks fair ; but if equally distributed it could all be put into the water in five to six months, and about one-half is actually well advanced to completion. Prices for new boats are now lower than they probably ever were before, business having been reported at under £5 a ton all over, and the more enterprising owners are being tempted to place contracts. The state of the freight market, however, offers no encouragement in that way. It follows that with so much building going on the steel works must have been well engaged, and so they have ; but all the makers complain of the prices current for the greater part of the year. Ship plates at £5 12s. 6d. are about 20s. per ton less than they were a year ago, and angles have suffered a like drop. In recent months stiff competition has been offered by the North of England steel-makers in this district, and they

have succeeded in capturing a good deal of work. The larger makers report that as much as 20s. a ton has been lost this back end on the manufacture of ship plates, and they are moving for substantial reductions in wages in January. At the moment the locomotive engineers have 5,511 men engaged, as against 6,089 a year ago, so that their position is still not unsatisfactory. During the year 400 engines have been given out for public tender, and 85 per cent. came to Glasgow, the work covering orders from India, the Cape, Natal, Holland, Greece, and the Argentines. South America was for years one of the best markets for this trade, and a recovery in the financial position there would be a great gain for it. Ironfounding has done well, owing to the exceptional briskness which has ruled in the housebuilding trades, but export business has been very slack. South Africa is becoming an important buyer in this department, and Australia has been doing more of late. In the brass and copper trades work has not been so plentiful as in late years, and with brass castings at 6d. per pound, small margin is left for the producer. The output of sewing machines equals that of last year, chiefly owing to there having been a great demand for Spain prior to the increase of the tariff in July. Tubemakers were busy in the opening months of the year, but less so since, the demand for boiler-tubes having seriously fallen off of late. Agricultural implement makers report the year as better than the preceding ; and tool-makers have done well ; so have water-pipe makers, but they expect to do even better in the year to come, as there are some splendid orders in the market on foreign and Eastern account. Coachbuilders, soap makers, colour manufacturers, and leather manufacturers all advise a good turnover of work, but likewise all state that profits have been very low.

HARTLEPOOLS (THE).—The shipyards have all been kept steadily at work until the waning months of the year, and the output of 33 vessels (all steamers) of 90,924 tons, though less than 1891, is fairly satisfactory in the circumstances of the

trade. The chief builder, with a total of 21 vessels of 59,810 tons, has turned out more steamers than any firm in the United Kingdom, and takes second place in point of tonnage produced. Excepting during the period of the Durham strike, when all the Cleveland furnaces were laid idle, there has been a fair demand for tonnage to carry iron ore. The iron and steel trade of the vicinity has fluctuated both as to volume and prices, the latter having ruled very low, steel ship-plates ranging from £6 in May to £5 in November, and closing the year at £5 2s. 6d. a ton.

LEEDS.—Of the best Yorkshire iron manufacture all that can be said is that, while the Leeds forges are only moderately well employed, the celebrated Lowmoor Company are the only firm who are engaged in the erection of new blast furnaces. Business in finished iron has been dull all the year, and still keeps so. Locomotive builders have almost all of them had to complain of similar depression. In the autumn there was a brief "spurt" among builders of tank engines for colliery and contractors' work, but again a scarcity of such orders has to be complained of. The agricultural machinery trade has all the year through been below the average, but in place of it there have been orders in hand for electric driving engines, which may be ranked as "a new departure," and this is locally likely to be a busy branch of the trade for some time to come.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—The year has been anomalous in the history of the iron and steel trades. On the verge of the Durham coalfield, Cleveland, for the first time in its record, has depended on Scotland for coal sufficient to keep the few works going, and has had shipped in its port pig iron—the native product—from the United States. The Durham coal-miners' strike stopped the whole of the blast furnaces producing Cleveland iron, and during May and June, of the 83 furnaces in blast at the commencement of the struggle, only three producing spiegeleisen were blowing. The production fell from 212,381 tons of all brands in January to 6,124 tons of spiegel in

May, but has now reached something like 230,000 or 240,000 tons, the total to the end of November being 840,385 tons Cleveland and 1,697,866 tons hematite, basic, spiegel, &c. The stocks of Cleveland iron, often a trouble to the ironmasters, which at the end of January were 283,488 tons, were so depleted that in May the total stood at 87,963 tons, gradually falling until, at the end of November, 74,187 tons were left, and this with 49 furnaces in blast, equal to about a fortnight's make of the district. Notwithstanding the comparative scarcity of iron thus brought about, prices for both the raw material and the finished iron and steel have declined, so that even with a fair quantity of orders the margin of profit has scarcely sufficed. The Durham strike also interfered with the booking of orders for the second half of the year, and was, indeed, more disastrous for Tees-side than for the mining district itself. At the close of 1891 the ascertained price for Cleveland No. 3 was 38s., and the present year's prices have ranged :—First quarter, 38s. 0·94d.; second, 38s. 11·54d. ; third, 39s. 0·43d., with 36s. 9d. as the buyers' quotation this month. Middlesbrough warrants, too, have fallen from 38s. 2d. to 37s. cash, buyers, and East Coast hematite from 48s. 6d. to 44s. over the same period. From £6 16s. 5¾d., the highest point touched by manufactured iron since the beginning of 1890, the certified price has gone back to £5 6s. 9d., and the output some 8,000 tons per month. The price of finished steel is also about 10 per cent. less than at the opening of the year, and the output greatly reduced. The shipbuilding returns show that the tonnage built on the Tees has been 99,279, against 121,032 in 1891, and the price has declined to between £5 and £6 per ton. The shipments of pig iron to the end of November are over 240,000 tons below the corresponding period of 1891, and to December 21 were the lowest since 1889 for that month. Of finished iron and steel the shipments may be expected to be something approaching, if not over, 150,000 tons below 1891. The salt industry is annually growing in importance, and the coming year may witness important develop-

ments, owing to the expected success of experiments now being conducted. Coke is such a diminishing product in the Durham coalfields, and the demand for Cleveland furnaces so great, that the slightest scarcity affects the price instantly. During the Durham stoppage it was not obtainable below 17s. per ton at the blast furnaces, and, indeed, ironmasters who were also coke-producers would not sell at all. The price remains stiff at 13s. to 13s. 6d. All round the price of fuel has largely eaten away the iron manufacturers' profits and made enterprise risky. The outlook for the coming year is better in many respects.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Trade on the Tyne, taken all round, has shown less elasticity than last year, and in some departments has been more or less depressed. Still, the gross result of the year's work is not altogether disappointing; indeed, compared with the general expectation, it has turned out fairly well. Prices in all the leading industries have come down, and wages have suffered reductions varying from 2½ to 10 per cent. The coal trade has been variable, but has, nevertheless, maintained a fairly accentuated downward tendency throughout, especially in the matter of prices if not in the actual volume of trade. The Durham miners' strike, which lasted over three months and was the distinguishing feature of the year, exercised a two-fold effect on the coal trade of the Tyne. On the one hand, it stopped entirely for the period named the output of Durham gas, steam, house, and manufacturing coals, and on the other, it stimulated the sale of the Northumberland coals, which were not only shipped over sea in larger quantities, but were brought into general requisition for manufacturing purposes in the district. Hence, the shipments from the Tyne did not suffer to the same extent as those from the Durham ports proper, the total for the past 11 months being 8,818,661 tons, as compared with 10,115,667 tons for the same period of last year, or a decrease of over 12 per cent. Prices for steam coals have fluctuated between 12s. 6d., the highest, to 9s., the lowest, closing the year somewhat weakly at the latter price. Steam

smalls have ranged between 7s. and 3s. 6d., averaging 3s. 9d. to 4s., which is about the present price; gas coals between 11s. 6d. and 6s. 9d.; households between 15s. and 10s.; and unscreened bunkers between 10s. 6d. and 7s. In all cases the highest price named was the quotation during the scarcity of fuel caused by the Durham stoppage, and marks really the temporarily inflated value over that period, the average actual value being within 1s. to 2s. of the lowest prices named. Fire-bricks have ruled tolerably steady at from 40s. to 47s. 6d., according to brand, with a moderate trade and generally increasing stocks. Lead and copper have both been quiet, and, on the whole, lower in price, though the latter has of late been steadier at from £49 to £51 a ton for tough copper. The ship-building trade has been fairly steady, though never really brisk, and has for the most part been employed in the execution of orders booked early in the year, inquiries during the last six months having been characteristically scarce. The output of the river, including two battleships for her Majesty's Government, built by the Palmer Company, with a tonnage of 8,000 tons each, amounts to 116 vessels of 207,169 tons, as against 151 vessels of 185,367 tons last year, or a decrease in numbers of 35 vessels, but an increase in tonnage of 21,802 tons. Several cruisers for the Japanese and South American Governments, as well as five or six highly-finished passenger vessels, are included in this total. The year closes with but poor prospects for 1893, new orders being increasingly few, and nearly half the building berths being empty. Marine engineering and ship-repairing have been tolerably steady throughout the year, though the engineers' strike caused an interregnum of idleness for some 12 or 13 weeks. The bulk of the vessels built on the Tyne have also been engined there, and in addition several high-powered twin-screw engines have been turned out for British battleships. The ship-repairing facilities of the river have been increased during the year by the addition of a large pontoon dock at North Shields, a dry dock at Jarrow, and at the neighbouring port of

Blyth of another dry dock, all of which are capable of accommodating the largest class of ocean steamers.

SHEFFIELD.—The trade of this district has since the end of 1891 gradually been reduced both in volume and value, and the year closes with a smaller quantity of work in hand than for some years past, whilst the outlook for the future is on the whole unsatisfactory, though not without encouragement here and there. The exports to the United States from Sheffield have not increased, and trade is only about half the amount which was done prior to the M'Kinley tariff. The armour-plate works have been busily employed. The heavy armour for the eight large battleships is now practically finished, and the first and second class cruisers have received their relatively light protection. The armour made has been compound for the large battleships ; compound, all steel, and nickel steel for the thinner plates. In the experiments which have taken place during the year to test the gun and the armour-plate the projectiles have been beaten, as both the hardened Ellis compound and the Harveyized steel plates break them up with certainty, as readily and as small as the earlier compound plates broke the Palliser chilled cast-iron projectiles which had proved too much for the iron plates. In the near future the armour used for our battleships will more than ever be a combination of extremely hard face with soft, tough back. There is very little marine work in hand, and the district reflects the general condition of the shipbuilding trade at the present time. The boiler-plate trade has been practically given up by this district, although two outlying works are continuing the unequal struggle against the Scottish and east coast makers. As a striking contrast to the general cry of agricultural depression, it must be noted that the small department engaged on the manufacture of agricultural implements and machinery has been the busiest of any of the local industries, and the out-turn of scythes and sickles is the largest on record. The file trade has suffered from the depression in the shipbuilding and engineering industries, and

so severe has the competition for orders become and the unremunerative level of prices that machine-cut files have been in some cases substituted for hand-cut, and the using of Bessemer instead of crucible steel. The review of the cutlery trade is a very gloomy one, in the spring knife branch the depression being particularly acute, and the small reduction of 5 per cent. in workmen's wages which has been made has only afforded partial relief to the unprofitable nature of the business. The ivory, stag, and horn trade has naturally suffered in sympathy, and the displacement of the first-named product by xylonite has tended to still further depress this business. The demand for table cutlery has been fair, this being the only bright spot in the cutlery branch. Only a poor account can be given of the silver and electro plate trade. The home demand has fallen off with the general depression in trade, and the foreign business has very much contracted, that with the Australian colonies being almost *nil*, while in other directions American competition has been very keenly felt. Compared, however, with other local industries it does not show up unfavourably. The works engaged on railway material have been fairly well employed, but the year ends up badly, for at the present time, railway wagon and carriage builders are worse off for orders than for several years past.

(Messrs. R. Feldtmann and Co., of Glasgow and Whitehaven.)—The make of hematite iron and spiegel in the West Cumberland and Barrow districts amounted last year to 1,008,000 tons, and shows a decrease of 264,800 tons. The average make per furnace was 603 tons per week, against 581 tons in 1891. Shipments of hematite iron from this district have decreased 132,060 tons, and deliveries for home consumption have likewise decreased 95,940 tons, while shipments of steel have diminished 75,029 tons. The statistical position of this branch of the iron trade is a healthy one, though decidedly more favourable for the producer than for the consumer ; any improvement in trade ought to create promptly a corresponding

advance in prices. The injury suffered by this district through the Durham strike is unfortunately not only temporary, but is likely to be of a more permanent nature, for, after the public stores in West Cumberland and Barrow were emptied of nearly all the iron suitable for the consumption of the Scotch steel works, the Scotch pig-iron smelters turned their attention more largely to making hematite iron, and have supplied the wants of the Scotch steel works almost exclusively since then, and it is not likely that they will allow this trade to slip out of their hands again.

South Staffordshire.—The iron trade of this district has been in an unsatisfactory condition throughout the past year, the earlier portion being disturbed by a number of failures, chiefly sheet makers, while the closing quarter witnessed a more healthy tone and steadier selling prices. Buying has been confined to prompt deliveries, forward contracts being avoided. The basis value of marked bars has remained at £8 per ton without alteration for two years, and with the high cost of production there is no prospect of reduction. Medium bar iron has ranged in value from £6 15s. to £7 5s., while common bars have averaged £6. A large output has been made of common sheets, the selling rates of which were fixed early in the year at £7 singles, £7 5s. to £7 10s. doubles, and £8 for trebles, and these have regulated the business since. Although some six firms in this branch have stopped, several of the works are restarted by other owners, while one of the principal firms is engaged in enlarging its works at a cost of £20,000. At intervals the boiler and tank plate makers have done a moderate trade, and the hoop, strip, angle, and rod manufacturers have recorded a good aggregate of business. The best thin sheet and tin-plate makers have done a regular trade, and the amalgamation of several works has prevented unhealthy competition. The steel makers have been kept going steadily, and the output of the district being unequal to consumers' wants additional plant is being laid down. The average selling price of all classes of

sheet iron was lower by several returns until the last, when a small advance was established, while ironworkers' wages are 3d. per ton less on the year. Several works have been dismantled, and the materials realized higher prices than new. The pig-iron makers have kept their furnaces going at a full output, and this having been insufficient for current wants stocks are almost cleared out. Cold-blast iron value has been 97s. 6d. to 105s.; best warm-air, 62s. 6d. to 67s. 6d.; part-mine, 45s. to 47s. 6d.; and common, 38s. to 40s. The coal trade has been in an active state, with prices and wages unaltered. A number of pits unwatered are at work after standing many years.

SUNDERLAND.—The Wear more than the Tyne felt the disastrous effects of the Durham miners' strike. During the three months it lasted coal shipments were almost at a standstill, the few hundred tons shipped for several weeks being sent round from Northumberland. Since the settlement of the strike, however, and more particularly during the two or three months immediately succeeding, there was considerable activity, chiefly due to the necessity for making up contract shipments, and the exports in consequence swelled in volume. The total shipments, however, though not yet made up, fall short of last year. Gas coal prices have steadily receded, and though the coalowners secured a 10 per cent. reduction in the wages on the termination of the strike, the fall in values since then leaves them still at a disadvantage as to cost of production, and a further reduction in wages is regarded as inevitable by the trade. Alike in gas coals, households, and coke, Durham finds that it has lost ground through the strike, and orders which were exclusively held before that unfortunate event are now competed for by Yorkshire, Wales, and Germany with—to the Durham coalowner—mortifying success. The prospects for next year may be gauged by the fact that several gas coal contracts have been renewed at from 6s. 6d. to 7s. a ton, or 1s. 6d. to 2s. less than those just expiring, and for manufacturing coals at 1s. to 1s. 6d.

a ton less. Shipbuilding on the Wear has been fairly steady, and the result shows a decrease of under 2,000 tons, though only 76 vessels have been turned out, as against 89 last year, the proportionately increased tonnage being due to the larger size of vessels built. Only eight sailing vessels are returned, as against 22 last year. Of the 76 vessels launched, one, the Samoa, was 6,812 tons gross register, and is claimed to be the largest cargo steamer yet built, while another, the Turret, has been constructed on lines showing a radical departure from existing models. The five chief engineering firms on the Wear have turned out 84 marines and boilers therefor, the bulk of which were for locally-built vessels.

NITRATE OF SODA.

(Messrs. Alexander Ford and Co.)—This market opened in January, 1892, with the value of cargoes off coast at £9 2s. 6d. per ton. During the month the price advanced to £9 5s., and at the end of January £9 10s. was paid, this price being maintained during February. From this date the market gradually fell, until by the middle of May cargoes were sold at £8, and at the end of the month £7 12s. 6d. was touched. During June prices gradually improved, and £8 5s. was paid. The market remained at this figure, with little variation, during July and August. Upon receipt of advices of the October shipments being much less than in 1891, the price advanced to £8 17s. 6d. and to £9 2s. 6d. by the end of November. The early days of December marked a decline to £8 18s. 9d. We closed the year with the value of off-coast cargoes at £8 18s. 9d. per ton. The shipments from the West Coast during the past year have been 787,000, against 769,000. The stocks in Europe at the present date amount to 218,000 tons, against 220,000 tons in 1891, and quantity afloat 214,000 tons, against 314,000 tons, making the visible supply 432,000 tons, against 534,000 tons.

PROVISIONS.

LIVERPOOL.—When compared with the steady downward move-

ment in the value of fresh meats, the course of the provision market presents a very striking contrast. The depression in the first-named department has without doubt been partially brought about by the same cause which has operated so advantageously to the provision business, as with bad trade it generally follows that workmen, seeking a cheaper mode of living, curtail their consumption of fresh meats and use larger quantities of cheese and bacon. During the earlier part of the year the prices of Bacon advanced somewhat ; the rise was not rapid, and heavier hog receipts in America and larger shipments thence occasionally caused a set back. The last three months of the year have, however, witnessed a sharp advance, the hog receipts in America not only being much below last year, but also both in Ireland and Denmark the killings have been remarkably short, and the closing prices are practically the highest of the year, American bacon being now in some cases more than 50 per cent. dearer than at the commencement of the year, the greatest gain being shown on fancy cuts ; while Irish, though not making a proportionate gain, doubtless owing to the higher price which it commands, has risen 12s. to 17s. per cwt. The imports of American bacon in Liverpool have been heavier by nearly 60,000 boxes, the total for the year being 523,469, against 464,000 in 1891, and yet the market there is left very bare of stock. Hams have naturally moved with bacon to some extent, the variations of demand alone altering the course of values. The movement, though somewhat irregular, was to a higher level until August, when wet weather setting in checked the demand, and prices fell, heavier arrivals also assisting to further depress the market ; but latterly, with short supplies, especially of light weights, the advance was resumed, and as Christmas approached became sharper, ending in a gain of 12s. to 14s. on the prices of January last, which were the lowest of the year. Scarcely 1,000 boxes more than last year have been received from America. Shoulders have followed a similar course to the foregoing product, opening at 28s. to 30s., and, advancing

with various fluctuations, close at 46s. to 48s. Lard, though rising somewhat during the first part of the year, did not show a decided upward tendency, weaker advices from the States and only a moderate demand causing occasional declines ; but with the falling off in the hog receipts and consequent curtailment of production cliques gained possession of the Chicago market. Supplies being in few hands here a rapid advance also took place on this market, prices rising from 39s. 6d. at the end of September to 52s. to 54s., where they close. On the year, however, the imports into Liverpool show an increase of nearly 4,000 tons, the totals being 34,260, against 30,312 tons in 1891. The demand for Cheese has been moderate throughout the year, but supplies being smaller by about 70,000 boxes little alteration in values has been made, a loss of only about 1s. 6d. to 2s. being shown compared with January, 1892. Before the new season's goods came in a scarcity of old white resulted in very extreme prices being paid, sales being made up to 62s. American Butter opened at 80s. to 105s., and being scarce at first made rather better prices, but with more abundant supplies of home-made and Continental butters values fell away until 57s. 6d. to 77s. 6d. was touched. With smaller arrivals, however, during the autumn the market moved upward again, but owing to the large imports from the Australian colonies the finer sorts have not realized the prices of a twelvemonth ago, though the lower descriptions close 5s. better. The quantities received have been lighter by 29,000 packages. Margarine has had an increased consumption, and has been firm all through the year, finishing about 4s. better. The heavier imports of Beef, which are nearly 7,000 tierces in excess of 1891, caused a very weak tone to rule for some months, prices drooping from 72s. 6d. to 75s. for India mess ex. to 56s. 3d. to 60s., but these low rates stimulating the demand and checking shipments, a firmer market has ruled during the latter months of the year, and closing rates are 10s. to 11s. 3d. above the worst. Pork, with small arrivals, gradually advanced for the first six months, but weaker Ameri-

can advices and heavier receipts caused a temporary reaction. The supplies from other centres, however, being smaller, the upward movement was soon resumed, and during the last three months, the market being kept very bare of stocks, a rapid advance has resulted, a gain of about 75 per cent. being shown compared with the opening rates. The total imports amount to 53,284 barrels, against 45,896 last year.

FROZEN MEAT (Messrs. W. Weddel and Co.).—Mutton.—For the first time in the history of the trade there has been contraction, instead of expansion, in the year's imports from New Zealand, and, although Australia and the River Plate have increased their output, the aggregate receipts for 1892 are hardly equal to those for 1891. A commencement was made in opening up a direct trade from the colonies to Liverpool, and the experiment will doubtless be followed up in the new year. Beef.—The record of the past year is by no means a satisfactory one. Supplies of chilled beef from America have been heavier than in any previous year, and at times abnormally large, rendering the sale of frozen beef temporarily impracticable at remunerative prices. The American chilled beef trade, from its volume alone, must necessarily dominate the market for frozen beef, the annual imports of the former being about 1,750,000cwt., as against only about 150,000cwt. of the latter. Apart, however, from the direct and indirect influences of the American beef trade, the Australian and New Zealand frozen beef trade has of late occupied a position unsatisfactory both to the colonial shipper and to the home retailer, the frequency with which shipments have been interrupted during the past year or two having checked very seriously its healthy development. The market has at certain times been glutted with supplies, and at others left absolutely bare. River Plate beef has shown no tangible improvement in quality of late, and it is doubtful if any change for the better is likely to be established in the near future.

SHELLAC.

(Messrs. Gray, Standring, and Co.)—In January this market opened firm, T N second orange on the spot being quoted at 91s. to 94s., A C garnet, 94s. ; P L button lac, 98s. to 100s. Stock on hand, 34,000 chests. Prices continued fairly steady until the beginning of March, when, on larger supplies combined with small trade inquiry, prices fell away until the end of April, when the quotations were :—T N second orange, 63s. ; A C garnet, about 62s. ; B L button lac, 68s., which was the lowest point of the year. After this the market rallied rapidly, in consequence of an active trade demand, assisted by moderate shipments from Calcutta, and prices continued to advance with small fluctuations until in July they had reached 81s. to 83s. for T N second orange, 73s. for A C garnet, and 87s. for B L button lac. Stock, 41,000 chests. From that date until the end of November prices have, with an improved trade demand, been well maintained, never showing a greater variation than 3s. to 4s. Owing to continued reports of the shortness of the new season's crop, of which we have received confirmation, prices have again advanced, and T N second orange closes strong at 92s., A C garnet at 83s., and B L button lac at 107s. 6d. to 110s., whilst our stocks have fallen to 29,000 chests.

SHIPPING.

(Mr. John White, London.)—Shipping, like other industries, has suffered during the past year from severe depression, but it has passed through this trial with very few failures, either of shipbuilders or shipowners, which proves the solidity of this branch of our commerce. Shipbuilders have been fairly well employed with the large amount of orders in hand at the commencement of the year, but it is to be regretted for their sakes, and the large population dependent on this industry, that the year closes with a very limited amount of work, and there is no ground to anticipate any immediate improvement. The production of the past year, according to the records of "Lloyd's

Register of Shipping," has been about 831,867 tons of steamers and 261,928 tons of sailing vessels, which is a marked decrease on the total tonnage of the previous year, and less than the production of ten years ago. There have been removed from the British Register during the past year steamers of 263,000 tons and sailing vessels of 250,000 tons, which figures show a large decrease in steamers and an increase in sailing vessels. The reduction in the tonnage of steamers removed is principally owing to a less number of sales to foreigners. There were preparing for construction at the end of last month steamers representing 123,179 tons, and sailing vessels of 152,869 tons, in both cases a considerable decline on the total at the same period of the past three years. The reduced demand for new vessels has enabled builders and engineers, also manufacturers of material, to obtain a reduction of wages from the inflated rates the men obtained in busy times, and builders are now able to quote unprecedentedly low prices. Contracts can now be placed at 10 to 15 per cent. less than twelve months ago, when there had already been a substantial reduction. Engineers are better employed than shipbuilders, in consequence of orders for tripling compound engines and fitting new boilers. Second-hand steamers have declined in price proportionately more rapidly than new boats, the drop during the year for vessels with compound engines having been fully 25 per cent. The demand for sailing ships has practically ceased, this class of vessel having suffered very severely from decline in freights in the long voyages. Foreign shipowners have been very small customers in our market during the past year, either for new or second-hand steamers. Notwithstanding subsidies and bounties, the reports of many foreign steamship companies show very unsatisfactory returns, and several of their lines have been abandoned.

(Angier Bros.)—The close of the 1891 campaign gave unmistakable warning that a severe depression in all freights had commenced, and the broad facts of an unparalleled over-produc-

tion of tonnage indicated most unmistakably a long continuance of bad trade for ships. The depression which lasted from 1884 to 1888 was caused mainly by an overproduction of tonnage during 1880 to 1883, which was, however, feeble compared with the reckless rate of over-building during 1889 to 1892, both years included, and this with the "Baring" smash to intensify the inevitable evil result points to a longer consequent depression than that which lasted from 1884 to 1888. The rapidity of the collapse during the past year has far exceeded the most pessimistic forecast. Directly the demand for tonnage produced by the unusually large grain and cotton crops in America (which alone saved the freight market during the autumn of 1891) commenced to subside, rates dropped "pell-mell" all round, both outward and homeward, to figures which had never before been reached, so that at the present time it is impossible to find a round voyage in any direction to show a profit, even with the cheapest and most economical boats afloat. The Baltic trade shows a diminution in volume both in grain and wood, and the lowest record in rates is instanced by Cronstadt to London—viz., highest, 1s. 1½d., lowest, 9d. per quarter wheat; deals 25s. per standard highest, 17s. 6d. lowest, during the year. In the Mediterranean a considerable amount of tonnage has found employment, but at uniformly low and unremunerative rates, both for ore and fruit to United Kingdom and United States. Alexandria shipped largely of grain, seed, and cotton, but the highest figure paid was 15s. per ton cotton seed, and the lowest 6s. per ton. In the Black Sea, Danube, and Azoff trades, the prohibition of export of grain from Russia lasted till June, and crippled the trade for the first half of the year, but the latter half shows an average volume of business, through rates ruled very low all through with the exception of a short spurt in September and October; the highest and lowest figures reached were Azoff 17s. 6d. to 9s., Odessa, 13s. 6d. to 7s. 6d., Danube 19s. to 8s., all per ton wheat. From Batoum a very considerable tonnage was taken for oil to Mediterranean, India, and

China, but the rates paid were lower on average than any preceding year. Trade from India, China, and the far East shows a shrinkage in volume for the year and a heavy decline in prices paid. From China, tea rates opened at £4 per ton, falling to 25s. for London, 50s. to 32s. 6d. for New York. Japan paid 31s.3d. rice ; Australia, 36s.3d. to 30s. per 40 cubic feet ; Philippines, 35s. to 28s. 9d. per ton deadweight ; Saigon, 40s. to 25s. per ton rice ; Burmah, 38s. 9d. to 22s. 6d. per ton rice; Java, 37s.6d. to 27s.6d. per ton sugar ; Calcutta, 31s.3d. to 10s.per ton wheat; Madras coast, 35s. to 23s.9d. kernels or seeds ; Bombay, 22s. 6d. to 10s. per 40 ft. ; Kurrachee, 25s. to 10s. per 40 ft. ; each showing a severe decline, and the major part of the business done being at the lower rates. America, North and South, supplied the largest share of employment, but from the early spring rates fell rapidly and never recovered, whilst the autumn has witnessed a marked restriction in shipments, especially in cotton. West India trade has been restricted and at poverty prices. Brazils and River Plate paid high figures to attract tonnage, having good crops for export, but little to import; from the River Plate 36s. 3d. per ton wheat was paid, but the rates fell away to 12s. in the autumn. Coals and wages have declined, and helped slightly to reduce working expenses. Prices of steamers have fallen materially, and good new ships with fair engine power can be built for £6 per ton deadweight, or slightly under, but without an almost entire cessation of building for a year or two to enable the trade to live through the present glut of tonnage, it is impossible for freights to reach paying figures.

HULL.—In many respects the shipping trade of Hull has been wretchedly bad during the past year, the decrease in many departments of both the import and export trade, especially the latter, being most serious. There was an increase of 216,000 tons in the inward tonnage, but as this increased number of vessels has carried less merchandise, especially seeing that freights have been unusually low, it follows that times have

been very bad for the shipowners. The inward tonnage was the largest ever known at Hull in one year; but in the outward tonnage there was the very serious decrease of 67,000 tons as compared with 1891.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—The shipping trade has been dull and unsatisfactory throughout the year. Glutted with tonnage, the market has never been able to rise beyond a low average of rates. Only new steamers, with economical engines and a small consumption of coal, have yielded a fair return to their shareholders, and the river has never been wholly free from laid-up vessels. These during the Durham miners' strike numbered nearly 200, and now, with the Baltic closed and the area of employment limited, the number is again steadily increasing, some 65 or 70 vessels lying idle at the buoys. The prospects for next year seem to be worse rather than better. The timber trade has been quiet, Tyne imports for the past 11 months amounting to 227,160 loads, or some 3,000 loads less than last year.

SILK.

(Mr. C. Bovenschen.)—The year opened with a very quiet market at prices considered very low, Tsatlee 5¼ being quoted 10s. Stocks showed a slight increase on the previous year, the total in London warehouses being 21,050 bales, against 20,750 last year. The fluctuations at the Continental markets have been more severe; heavy arrivals during October and November and pressure to sell brought China silk down about 4f. per kilo, but the reaction was proportionately sharp, and the greater part of this loss has already been recovered. Our stock has continued to decrease, showing at the end of November about 4,500 bales less than at the beginning of the year, the figures being:—January 1, 1892, stock, 20,700 bales, of which 15,500 bales were China; December 1, 1892, stock, 16,200 bales, of which 12,400 were China; and by the end of the year a further diminution of about 500 bales will be apparent. This year's crops show in the aggregate a deficiency of about 15,000 bales against last year's, being about 6 per cent. of the

total production of silk, and the consumption of silk has been on a much larger scale than last year, the result being considerably reduced stocks. As most of the silk is, however, shared in private warehouses on the Continent no exact figures can be obtained. Our home manufacturers have not participated in the improvement; protective duties prevent their successful competition in foreign markets, and they find it difficult to hold their own in our own markets against foreign competition.

SUGAR.

Beetroot.—The year commenced with a more important fluctuation than has since occurred, the past season having been generally an uneventful one. The reduction of the estimate of the European crops by 100,000 tons at the close of the preceding year had given a strong fillip to this market, and the opening week marked an advance in prices, spot month being quoted at 14s. 9¾d. This was followed by a quiet tone, and prices drooped, with occasional fluctuations, until 12s. 6d. was touched in July, the chief items of interest in the interim being the deficiency in stock as compared with last year of 107,000 tons at the end of February, which was further increased during March, when Austria and Germany alone showed 225,000 tons less available for export than on the corresponding date 1891. Still absence of any demand from America and ready sellers resulted in a decline. March showed a falling off of exports from Germany and Austria of 175,000 tons for the month as compared with previous year. Continental failures and exaggerated reports of Cuban crop assisted the weak tone. A temporary check was caused in the decline by the destruction of a large portion of the Mauritius crop by a cyclone in the end of May and by an inundation in Matanzas in the middle of June, which destroyed a large portion of the sugar in store and interfered with manufacturing of the article there. At this period important American orders were placed in Java, causing prices there to advance above the limit here. Increased Austrian exports, improving weather (after drought in France), and a Cuban crop of 950,000 tons brought prices down to the

lowest figure– viz., 12s. 6d.—in July. The United States then placed some orders here, attracted by the low prices of beet, cane descriptions being in demand by China and Australia, and, exceptionally hot weather in August prejudicing European crops, prices advanced to 13s. 10½d. by the end of August. The United States then stopped imports on account of the cholera, and, crop advices having improved, price of spot at the end of September was down again to 13s. From this point prices again advanced. The autumn rains having an injurious effect upon the roots in Germany and France, and the Russian crop being reported 15 to 20 per cent. short, the highest price of the year was reached at the end of October. Since this date, after a reaction to the extent of 6d., prices have only slightly fluctuated. At the end of November Cuban and West Indian crop estimates were increased by 40,000 tons, Manila 10,000 tons, and Mauritius reduced by 70,000 tons, and the year closes with a steady tone. Cane descriptions have attracted less attention, and values have fluctuated chiefly in sympathy with the beet market. Crystallized Demerara, middling to good middling yellow, was worth 16s. 7½d. to 17s. in the beginning of the year, declined to 16s. 3d. to 16s. 6d. in July, and closes at 17s. 3d. to 17s. 9d., being scarce. In British refined a normal trade was done, and fluctuations have been slight. Tate's cubes opened at 21s. 3d., declined to 19s. 9d. in October, during which month they also advanced 1s. to 20s. 9d., fell to 20s. 3d. during November, and at the beginning of December were again advanced to 20s. 9d. Foreign refined in the earlier part of the year was quiet. French No. 3 crystals in January were quoted 17s. 3d. and cubes 19s. 6d., and declined in May—crystals to 14s. 10½d. and cubes to 18s. 6d., the closing values being 16s. 3d. and 19s. respectively. The stocks of sugar in the four principal ports at the commencement of the year amounted to 111,000 tons, and increased to 128,000 at the end of January, then declined to 88,500 in the middle of March, again increasing to 134,000 tons at the end of July, and at the end of the year is 90,000. The world's visible supply in January was 1,163,300 tons, in April

1,520,000 tons, in November 397,000 tons, and at the close 1,264,882 tons.

(Mr. James Dunn, Glasgow.)—The business in raw sugar in the Clyde markets has shown little change from that of 1891. The stock brought over was estimated at 26,906 tons, and this, added to 190,280 tons imported up to the 24th of December, makes a supply of 217,186 tons as having been available for refining purposes. Of this quantity 189,771 tons were refined in Greenock, and this shows a decrease of 11,835 tons as compared with last year's working. The imports of 190,280 tons were made up of the following, viz. :—162,536 tons beetroot, 21,828 tons Java, 2,266 tons Mauritius, 1,600 tons Brazil, and 2,050 tons cane from other countries. These imports are almost the same as those of 1891. The supplies of raw material have been always sufficient to meet the wants of the refineries, except in the case of those refiners who prefer working cane sugars, the available stocks of which latter have sometimes been so low that short stoppages pending fresh arrivals have been necessitated. In order to keep up the Clyde stock of raw cane sugars the Liverpool market has been largely drawn upon for these descriptions. Of course this entails an extra expense upon our refiners in comparison with their Liverpool competitors, who have the great advantage of a good supply of cane sugar constantly in their port. It is to be hoped, now that cane-sugar working seems to be fairly re-established on the Clyde, that importers of that sort will send consignments to Greenock for sale. There are plenty of sugar stores standing empty, and the proprietors would be greatly the better of some goods to warehouse, and are probably now willing, in order to induce this business, to accept rents hardly more than nominal, while the porterage and cartage charges are moderate.

TALLOW.

(Messrs. Colchesters and Woolner.)—The tallow market has been fairly active throughout the past year. Plentiful shipments from Australasia and a scarcity of home tallow

combined to make this market the chief source of supply. The amount of speculative business has been trifling and insufficient to interfere with the natural tendency of prices. The fluctuations during the year have been small. The year opened with a firm market, and during January prices advanced from 27s. to 27s. 6d. for fine mutton tallow, then a gradual decline took place until, in July, 26s. was reached. In the autumn prices did not advance so soon as was expected, and so little change took place for some months that consumers became confident of obtaining their supplies of foreign tallow as required without advancing prices. By November, however, keen competition had so much advanced the cost of raw material in the country markets that foreign tallow was far cheaper. The stock in Liverpool was small, and in consequence of the large orders sent to the London market prices rapidly rose 3s. per cwt., 28s. 6d. to 29s. being paid for best mutton tallow. These prices were practically maintained, with a good demand, to the close of the year. The stock of tallow in London at the present time is not large, but there are abundant supplies afloat, and home tallow is more plentiful. The market is firm, and prices of fine mutton tallow may be maintained for a few weeks, but it seems probable that for other qualities lower prices may be expected before long.

TEA.

(Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton.)—Home Consumption.—The extremely low price no doubt materially assisted in bringing up the total home consumption of all tea for 1892 to the high point at which it now stands—viz., 207,000,000lb.—exceeding that of any other year ; and this, too, in a year when the process of substituting the strong teas of India and Ceylon for the weak tea of China was perhaps never more actively in force, its use falling from 52,000,000lb. in 1891 to 34,000,000lb. in 1892, while the use of Indian tea increased from 99,000,000lb. to 109,000,000lb., and Ceylon from 51,000,000lb. to 64,000,000lb. in the same period. The home consumption of tea in its liquid

state must therefore have been enormously augmented in 1892, and the public have at last the happy satisfaction of knowing that almost every cup of tea they drink tends to increase the prosperity of our own kinsfolk in India and Ceylon, besides assisting to support the vast native population in these portions of the British Empire, for out of every 100lb. of tea used 53lb. were grown in India, 31lb. in Ceylon, and only 16lb. in China. Crop Results.—Although prospects opened gloomily for the tea producer this season, events have nevertheless proved auspicious, for the excessive crop estimates indulged in both from India and Ceylon, which hung as a pall over the market, have proved fallacious, and the actual outturn has barely come up to that of last season. The result has been a reaction in price to a more remunerative figure. The coincident fall in the value of silver has also lessened cost of production, and the planting community expect to reap a fairly profitable harvest, while the increased use of the article, both at home and abroad, resulting from recent low values has materially raised the proportion in which consumption stood towards production, and thus lessened the danger of over-supply in the near future. Quality of crop from India has so far been above the average, that from Assam especially being noticeable for strength and richness. Ceylon teas have been up to average, and towards the close of the year were particularly good, those grown at high elevations being noticeable for very fine, delicate flavour.

TIMBER.

(Foy, Morgan, and Co.)—The past year has at last brough to the wood trade a satisfactory and steady business. The volume of trade has been limited, and no violent fluctuations in the markets, such as characterized 1890, have occurred to scare importers into selling at a loss ; nor have there been financial troubles, as in 1891, to take away profits already earned. A great factor in the situation has been the steady course of spot values, terminating in a slightly firmer tone towards the close of the season. The early f.o.b. prices were sufficiently moderate

to induce some large transactions, on the strength of which the rest of the f.o.w. stocks, both from Sweden and Russia, were soon cleared off. After a certain lull, during which shippers were wise enough to see that there was no reason to press sales, the autumn stocks were easily absorbed, and fewer consignments found their way to this market than for many years previously. There seem to be grounds for believing that next season a good deal more work will be done round London than has been undertaken for some years previously; and, if this should prove correct, the prospects for the spring will be satisfactory—that is, of course, if shippers continue to curtail their productions as they have so successfully done in 1892. The returning confidence in the stability of the trade is evidenced by the considerable early sales f.o.b. already reported. Although it had been supposed that the increased tariffs levied on sawn goods would have practically closed the French markets to this year's spring and summer shipments, it is remarkable that French firms were among the earliest of the f.o.w. buyers; and, so far as appears probable, protective dues will not eventually diminish the annual importation of sawn wood into France. The probable lowering of the protective tariff between the United States and Canada is likely to increase the consumption of Canadian goods in American markets, and thereby reduce the quantity available for British requirements. Notwithstanding the absence of animation in the building trade, merchants managed to obtain fair prices, and, as the stock never became excessive, business continued sound, and there was no inducement to cultivate the speculative trade. Since the carpenters' strike in 1891 a remarkable immunity from labour troubles has been enjoyed, which circumstance has benefited the wood trade in no inconsiderable degree.

CARDIFF.—Notwithstanding the strike in the building trade at Cardiff, which has now lasted eight months, the timber trade has been in a fairly flourishing condition. Large consignments of timber have been forwarded to the Midland and other dis-

tricts, and the imports for the year have amounted to about 675,000 loads, or 60,000 loads more than last year.

HARTLEPOOLS (THE).—The timber trade has been unusually brisk, and the import for the year is the largest ever known, 400,104 loads having been received during the 11 months ending November 30, or an increase of no less than 58,000 loads. This enormous development has naturally taxed the inadequate facilities of the port very severely, and during the summer the greatest difficulty was experienced in finding quay room for the arriving vessels and in moving away the accumulated timber. The demand for pit props and mining timbers was seriously affected by the Durham miners' strike, but with that exception it has been good. Prices have been only moderately steady, the large import militating against any advance, though now that the receipts are small, consequent on the closing of the Baltic ports, the tendency is distinctly upward. The local sawmills have been kept well employed throughout the year. Sunderland's timber imports have been fairly large this year, and show an increase of over 8,000 loads compared with 1891. They consisted chiefly of pit props and mining timber for local consumption.

TEAK (Messrs. Denny, Mott, and Dickson.)—The striking feature of this market for 1892 has been a falling off in the imports of 25 per cent. as compared with those of 1891, and an even larger percentage if the comparison is made with the average imports of the previous three years. The consumption has fallen off 37½ per cent. on that of 1891, or 27½ on the average consumption of the last three years. Seeing, however, the great depression in the shipbuilding industry (in respect to the mercantile marine) and also in the construction of rolling stock for South American and other foreign customers of England for railway coaches, a European consumption of about 44,000 loads of teak during the past 12 months, against an importation of about 43,000 loads, is peculiarly satisfactory. Notwithstanding the consumption having thus exceeded the year's imports, prices have gradually declined during the year, owing

to the difficulty of placing entire floating cargoes. The new season's supplies at the Burmese shipping ports are moderate, and the total floating cargoes and charter commitments at the opening of 1893 provide for a forward supply to Europe of 29,000 loads, as against 32,000 loads provided for at the opening of 1892.

(Messrs. Churchill and Sim.)—The wood trade of the United Kingdom for 1892 has not resulted so satisfactorily for importers as in 1891, although it has been larger in extent. In the last-named year buyers derived special advantages from a continuous rise of prices at the shipping ports and, in the autumn, from a considerable advance in freights—a combination which necessarily added materially to the selling values of all earlier importations. The trade of 1892 was not favoured in the same way by a constantly-increasing cost of supply, but there was nevertheless no reason to complain of a course of free-on-board markets, which continued remarkably steady throughout, while freights, as in the preceding year, rapidly advanced towards the end of the season. On the whole a good year's business may be reported; if not rateably so profitable as that of 1891, the greater volume of it may be expected to have nearly made up the deficiency, and this, seeing the difficulties created by the prevalence of strikes in many of the greatest trades and industries of the country, may be considered as a fortunate outcome.

The following table, compiled at the Custom-house, will show the extent of the trade in recent years in respect both to volume and value :—

WOOD IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	1891.	1892.
	Loads.	Loads.
Colonial deals, battens, &c....	890,597	1,212,877
Colonial timber and hardwoods	151,828	194,654
Foreign deals, battens, and boards	3,487,855	3,881,432
Foreign timber and hardwoods	2,099,749	2,274,486
Colonial and foreign staves	130,101	136,063
Total, in loads	6,760,130	7,699,512
Value	£14,479,138	£16,679,526

TOBACCO.

(Messrs. Grant, Chambers, and Co.)—In reviewing the course of the market for 1892 we find that in the earliest part there was little interest manifested as to the future developments that might arise, but later on, when the advanced cost of the season's import was confirmed, buyers became more on the alert to secure the most desirable parcels that were offering, and consequently considerable sales were effected of the old imports, which were then obtainable at very moderate prices. For some time afterwards the demand fell off and only a retail inquiry was experienced, but later on considerable sales were again effected, both of old and previously neglected parcels and of the new import, and this resulted in the reduction of the stock in first hands to less than it has been for several years past. A considerable advance in prices has now been established in Western growths, and, with the present reduced stocks and the increased cost of the crop now being handled, the market presents an exceptionally strong appearance.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

(Messrs. J. R. Parkington and Co.)—A retrospect of the wine and spirit trade for the year 1892 will scarcely be perused with unalloyed satisfaction by shippers, merchants, or dealers. Various causes, both political and social, have combined to restrict consumption. The absence of seasonable and genial weather and the depression existing in both agricultural and manufacturing centres naturally tended to lessen the demand for all descriptions of wines, champagnes and clarets being most affected. Considering the universal slackness of business, it is certainly a source of congratulation that the financial condition of our trade continues sound, and no failures of importance have to be recorded. Two incidents call for special mention—the "Burnay" port sales and the introduction of the 1889 vintage champagnes. Aided by the consignments necessitated by these two public sales, the shipments of port have,

during the past 12 months, exceeded 110,000 pipes, a total considerably in excess of any previous record. Of the sister wine from the Peninsula we can but present a poor report; demand for sherry is still on the wane, and the British public seems, for the present, to be quite neglecting its *quondam* favourite. The 1889 champagnes appear to fully justify the encomiums passed upon them; the high price at which the wine has, of necessity, been introduced somewhat daunts buyers; 1884's continue in great request, and prices threaten to go higher in the near future. The demand for claret has been disappointing, especially for the medium and higher growths; stocks of all descriptions, both here and at Bordeaux, are exceptionally heavy. The market for both Scotch and Irish whisky has been unusually buoyant throughout the year, so that distillers and dealers alike have good reasons to congratulate themselves on the amount of business done. The brandy trade does not present any very special features, demand and supply exhibiting about normal figures; old landed parcels, stocks of which are now small, have been in great request at higher figures, but sales of genuine young spirit are difficult, owing to first cost, storage charges, &c. A marked falling-off in home trade, in conjunction with large imports, has tended to seriously depress the rum market, and prices have fallen heavily, forming, indeed, an important contrast to the record of the previous year, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer was able to "point a moral and adorn a tale" by exemplifying the increase in consumption of this particular spirit. The vintage in most parts of the Continent was fairly favourable, in spite of severe frosts late in the spring and the scorching heat of August. The 1892 champagnes are expected to prove excellent, though, unfortunately, deficient in quantity. It is greatly to be desired that the ravages of the phylloxera will be arrested in these hitherto favoured regions. The yield of wine in the Cognac districts, though not prolific, was of fair strength and quality, and commanded good prices. The Bordeaux crops were much

damaged by heavy hailstorms and late frosts, which destroyed all chance of the harvest equalling in abundance its immediate predecessors. The accounts received from Oporto are very satisfactory, and both good quality and quantity have been obtained. Notwithstanding the appearance of mildew in some districts of Jerez, the sherry vintage was moderately favourable, so that stocks are more than equal to any possible demand which might arise.

WOOL AND WOOLLENS.

(Messrs. Willans and Overbury.)—Another year of largely-increased production, of unprofitable trade, and of depressed prices has been experienced; indeed, the average value of the bale of colonial wool was the lowest ever recorded—viz., about £12. It is true that in the course of the years 1848, 1869, 1870, and 1886 points were reached below, as regards most qualities, any touched during 1892, but the periods of extreme depression during those years were short-lived, and, upon the whole, more remunerative results were secured for producers. At the commencement of the second series of 1892 prices had reached a lower level than any experienced since April, 1886, but, after the first week of the series, a sudden and remarkable rally took place, and a somewhat similar rebound in values occurred at the opening of the fifth and last series, but in neither case was the recovery maintained, and the market for the year closed without much animation at prices in average about 5 per cent. lower than those ruling in December, 1891. The favourable features of the situation are the facts, first, that the whole of the net increase in production from the colonies and the River Plate, amounting to about 140,000 bales in the former and to 30,000 bales (equal to at least 80,000 Australasian bales) in the latter case, have been taken off the market, while the stocks of wool in dealers' and manufacturers' hands, and of tops and yarns, are believed, upon good grounds, to be lighter than usual. In the second place, accounts from both areas of production go to show that the

increase during the coming season will be on a diminished scale—if, indeed, there be any increase at all—wool at the same time being at such a low level that any, even a very slight, improvement in the demand must have a decided influence on the market.

(Messrs. Charles Balme and Co.)—The greater part of the past year has been marked by features of still deeper depression than prevailed during the 12 months immediately preceding it. The value of exports has continued to shrink, while the reaction upon internal trade has become increasingly noticeable in the reduction of wages and restricted employment of labour. At the same time, the supplies of raw material, colonial and Argentine, which the industry has been called upon to absorb, exhibit in the aggregate an appreciable, though not an excessive, augmentation, and, in view of the fact that the purchases by home consumers have slightly retrograded, it is hardly a matter of surprise that, under these circumstances, quotations of Australasian wool should have more than once receded to a point hardly, if at all, above the low-watermark level of 1886. The last two or three months, however, have developed a rather more hopeful situation.

(Messrs. Helmuth, Schwartze, and Co.)—Supply, Consumption, and Stocks, in Europe.—The following figures show the total imports into the principal European ports of extra European wools (including Turkish wools, mohair, alpaca, and camels' hair), the deliveries and the stocks in ports at the end of each year (in thousands of bales) :—

—	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.
Imports—					
Australasian	1,800	1,656	1,451	1,327	1,328
Cape	286	323	286	287	290
River Plate	398	361	297	409	360
Other sorts	514	490	466	558	485
Total	2,998	2,830	2,500	2,581	2,463

	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.
Deliveries—					
Australasian	1,824	1,685	1,378	1,341	1,329
Cape	291	326	275	299	292
River Plate	393	359	293	415	360
Other sorts	525	486	455	570	521
Total	3,033	2,856	2,401	2,625	2,502
Stocks December 31—					
Australasian	60	84	113	40	54
Cape	16	21	24	13	25
River Plate	16	11	9	5	11
Other sorts	64	75	71	60	72
Total	156	191	217	118	162

The deliveries in Europe for the calendar year show an increase of 177,000 bales—viz., 138,000 bales colonial and River Plate and 39,000 bales other sorts, as compared with 1891, and the enormous total of 3,000,000 bales is exactly 50 per cent. more than only seven years ago. The stocks of all kinds must be considered as very moderate. Of colonial wool only 11,000 bales of old wool remained unsold, against 6,000 bales in 1891, and the balance consists of new arrivals not yet available for sale.

Consumption in the United Kingdom.—The total left for consumption is shown in the following, the figures representing millions of pounds weight :—

	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.
Domestic Clip, estimated ...	153	148	138	133	134
Imports of Wool, Alpaca, and Mohair	762	740	650	722	662
	915	888	788	855	796
Total Exports	448	401	360	385	363
Left for Home Consumption...	467	487	428	470	433

The stocks in ports at the end of 1892 amounted to 40 million lb., against 53, 62, 36, and 42 million lb. the four preceding years. Taking this into consideration, the quantity at the disposal of the home trade in 1892 was 480 million lb., against 496, 402, 476, and 440 million lb. in the four preceding years. Of the decrease

of 16 million lb., six millions were colonial and 10 million lb. sundry and low wools.

BRADFORD.—(Messrs. W. and C. Dunlop.)—The Bradford trade throughout the greater part of the past year must again be described as decidedly disappointing, not from any falling off in the volume of business, which has been well maintained in all departments, but on account of the low and frequently unremunerative prices which have ruled. During the last three months a very healthy demand has been experienced for both yarns and manufactured goods, accompanied by a moderate advance in prices, and the new year opens with a brighter outlook than could have been anticipated a few months ago. There has been a considerable increase in our exports to the United States, notwithstanding the existence of the M'Kinley tariff, and perhaps the most favourable feature in the prospect of the trade is the probability that there will before long be some revision of this obnoxious tariff. The home trade, owing chiefly to the unfortunate position of agriculture, has fallen off, and business with Eastern markets has been much hampered by the continuous decline in silver, so that our exports to China and Japan show a considerable reduction. On the other hand, South American markets have shown a marked recovery.

KIDDERMINSTER.—The carpet trade in 1892 has been in a most discouraging state. At the outset an improvement on 1891 was looked for, but neither in the Kidderminster centre nor in other districts where the trade is carried on did business improve. The causes of this were, no doubt, really general ones, affecting other industries as well ; and to a great extent business throughout the year was of a more hand-to-mouth nature than even in an ordinary dull time. Production has probably not been more than 60 per cent. of an average year. After the American trade fell off through high protective tariffs, new markets were briskly pushed for elsewhere, but fiscal difficulties have again been in the way and checked the

development of the export trade, the last year's foreign carpet business again showing no vitality.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT.—The variety of trades carried on in Leeds accounts for the fact that there is very seldom any great commercial or industrial distress in the town. The cloth manufacture, of course, takes the lead, and next the iron manufacture and the engineering and kindred businesses. Leeds is a great centre for the production not only of the above-mentioned, but also of leather, paper, fire-bricks, and the like, glass, chemicals, cut nails, and boots and shoes, and these are carried on, each and all, extensively. At the present time there is unusual slackness in the iron trade, and yet at a bureau which has been opened with a view to providing labour for the unemployed there are comparatively few who have been compelled to resort to its agency. Not more than 2,000 men have asked that employment be found them. In Bradford during the year matters have been far more serious, for there the dependence of the operative class upon one industry chiefly has caused them not a little unhappy experience. The worsted, which is the staple trade there, has been shorn of very much of its original dimensions through the operation of the M'Kinley tariff in America, and a crucial ordeal has had to be undergone because of it by both the employers and the unemployed. In Leeds the effect of that protective policy on the part of America has been somewhat severely felt. The turnover of worsted coatings used to be very large, both in Leeds and Huddersfield, for Transatlantic exportation, and this was severely felt by manufacturers who had provided themselves with special machinery for the purpose. By dint, however, of strong determination to excel in designing novelties, our leading firms have, during the year, been able to do business with that country in goods which surpassed anything of its own production, and it has, on the whole, been to them a profitable trade as compared with the money the same fabrics were selling for at home. With regard to the export trade in cloth to the European continent or elsewhere, there

has been nothing remarkable during the year. The business done with France has in the aggregate been rather larger than was the case last year, notwithstanding the high tariff, and orders have been recently placed for such cloths as serges, imitation Scotch tweeds, and superior mantle cloths. An important fact has been the reopening of some of the markets in South America. Trade with Brazil in all suitable classes of our goods has for a few months past gone on gradually improving, and to the Argentine there has been a rush of shipments recently in order to anticipate an expected readjustment, and, in fact, a considerable raising, of the import tariff. With India there has been but little doing in woollens, and the perplexing position of the silver question has hindered such negotiations for the cloths made here as there otherwise might have been; but, according to reports which have come to hand, there is a better prospect for 1893, as of late there has been an absence of that over-buying and consignment business which formerly was such a bad feature of this market. Our commerce generally with China and Japan has not been so unsatisfactory for a long time past as it is now, and there cannot be seen any chance of an early change for the better. The colonial trade in wcollen goods has gone on slowly expanding during the year, and manufacturers who have set their minds on providing for the special wants of these markets are now continually called upon for weighty shipments. An amount of ready-made clothing has also been sold direct to Australian markets. As for the position of the home trade in woollens and worsteds, it is considerably better now than it was during the first six months of the year. No doubt "strikes" and lock-outs did it irreparable damage both in the North and in the Midlands. Of late, however, a good deal of that lost ground has been made up, and, in accordance with the value of raw material, all first-class coatings, suitings, mantlings, and costumes are now from 5 to 7½ per cent. higher in price than they were. This betokens a brisker market in the near future,

and in order to be prepared for it makers of textile machinery have begun to be busier than they have been for three years past. This appears, however, to be about the only branch of the iron trade in which there is much hopefulness. The demand for leather has kept up fairly well during the year, and especially there was a brisk trade in the autumn. Orders for fancy and light leathers have come in numerously, but not many of them were of large extent.

LEICESTER.—The woollen industry in the Leicester district has been carried on during the year under peculiarly trying conditions, although the cost of the raw material reached the lowest point recorded for more than a third of a century. The large amount of English wool carried over from the previous year produced an excess of supplies, which was further aggravated by the almost total stoppage of the export of raw wool to the United States. When the season's wool came on the market values were at a very low level ; but the difficulties of consumers were still further increased by the subsequent decline, which entailed considerable losses. The last two months of the year, however, showed a partial recovery, together with a large increase in the consumption. The yarn market has been rather fluctuating, and the business done throughout the entire year has been at a dangerously narrow margin of profit. At one period the output was restricted considerably, but the year closes with a better outlook. Lambswool and fancy yarns have been in good demand and prices firm. The hosiery trade has been a full average one in extent. Some fancy branches have revived considerably, but the cashmere trade has suffered through the severity of competition. Cotton goods have been a small trade, being almost exclusively confined to South American markets. An enormous turnover has been effected in football jerseys, which are now a very important part of the fancy trade. The stocks to be carried forward are under the average. Elastic web fabrics have largely declined ; but a good average business has been done in specialities, including cords, braids, and dress bandings

ROCHDALE.—The past year's trade has been up to the average, and, owing to the diminished production by some firms having gone out of flannel manufacture and others having reduced the size of their business, the stocks left on hand are probably lighter than they have been for a long time. The manufacturers are more hopeful of the future, as they are in a stronger position, owing to the diminished stocks, than they have been in recent years.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BRISTOL, dependent upon many and varied manufactures rather than a few special staple industries, has not on the whole felt the fluctuations and depression of trade so much as other centres, and distress among the workers has not been very marked. Nevertheless, the trade throughout the year has been sluggish. This has been notable in the boot and shoe industry of the district, employing some 20,000 workpeople, and the imports of American leather have been less than in any previous year of the last decade, and prices have ruled very low, the trade of the year being practically over a month ago. Builders, on the other hand, despite labour disputes now settled, have been more active than for the past seven years, thanks in some measure to the more spirited policy of the docks committee of the corporation in providing increased facilities for cargo vessels —a policy which has led them to project dock extensions estimated to cost upwards of a million sterling, giving a decided impetus to the shipping of the port. There is no doubt that the year's return of tonnage, both foreign and coastwise, will show a large increase. The timber trade has been active up to December. The provision imports have advanced by leaps and bounds, and the port has largely extended its range as a distributive centre. The corn trade has passed through the most disastrous year since 1887, but for the importation and consumption of petroleum oils Bristol has rapidly advanced to the position of the third port in the kingdom. Its foreign cattle trade has also been immensely developed. The local tobacco

industry has increased, sugar refining languished, shipbuilding has been meagre, and the coal trade has struggled with many difficulties, though prices have kept high. The saddle and harness manufactories have been working short time, and the cotton industry has improved. Wagon and carriage making has been more healthy, the clothing industry fairly active, and the manufacture of chocolate and cocoa very largely extended.

LEICESTER.—Leather, Boots, and Shoes.—A great revolution has taken place in the boot and shoe industry in the Leicester district during the year. The boot and shoe trade has now totally lost the domestic side of its character, and the combination of the factory system and the domestic system is now at an end. The industry has slowly but surely yielded to the impulse of machinery, and so marked has been the advance in this direction that it is now believed that there is more machinery used in the boot and shoe industry in the Leicester district than in the whole of the other districts in England and Scotland combined. The business of the year has been under the average, the main causes of the decline being hostile tariffs, the disturbances in South America, and labour troubles at home. The year closes with a better outlook and a largely-increased inflow of contracts for spring goods for home, Australian, Indian, and South African markets. The prices of leather reached a very low point, and this has induced large contracts to be placed in advance for next season's trade.

NOTTINGHAM.—The year opened with prospects of an improved lace trade, and for some months, at any rate, the shipping demand was larger than in the previous year. This was principally due to the popularity of the guipure d'Irlande and other purl laces. The Americans bought extensively of these goods, which were made both of silk and cotton, and machinery suitable for their production was for a time fully employed. Later in the year the supply overtook the demand, and a more subdued tone characterized the trade. There has also been a fairly sustained demand for laces in the Valenciennes style.

Most other varieties of cotton millinery laces have sold slowly during the greater part of the year, and business in silk Chantilly and Spanish laces has not been brisk. A moderate sale has been experienced for embroideries and trimmings. Mob-caps, children's frocks, and fancy aprons have sold freely. A considerable trade has been done in veilings, the demand having been relatively most active in the early months of the year. The year's business in plain nets has not been satisfactory to the makers, prices having generally been at an unremunerative level. The lace curtain trade has been marked by unhealthy competition.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The Returns for the whole year 1892 show that the imports were £423,892,000, a decrease of £11,799,000, or about 2¾ per cent.; and the exports of British and Irish produce £227,060,000, a decrease of £20,175,000, or about 8 per cent., while the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise were £64,400,000, an increase of £2,604,000, or about 4¼ per cent.

The tonnage of vessels entered from foreign ports was 29,530,000 tons, an increase of 1,429,000 tons, or about 5 per cent., and the tonnage of vessels cleared was 33,944,000 tons, a decrease of 270,000 tons, or about ¾ per cent. As regards shipping coastwise, the tonnage entered was 28,927,000 tons, a decrease of 229,000 tons, or about ¾ per cent., and the clearances were 27,720,000 tons, a decrease of 60,000 tons, or about ¼ per cent.

The quantities of the leading dutiable articles taken out of bond were :—Tea, 207,114,000lb., an increase of 4,657,000lb., or 2·3 per cent. ; coffee, 258,000cwt., a decrease of 3,000cwt., or about 1 per cent. ; cocoa, 20,796,000lb., a decrease of 806,000lb., or 3·7 per cent. ; spirits, 8,111,000 gallons, a decrease of 274,000 gallons, or 3·2 per cent. ; wine, 14,623,000 gallons, a decrease of 232,000 gallons, or 1·5 per cent. ; tobacco, 63,722,000lb., an increase of 1,628,000lb., or 2·6 per cent.

THE COAL TRADE.

THE past year has been in some respects one of the most eventful that the coal trade of Great Britain has ever known. During no previous year have coal-owners experienced more difficulty in adjusting the cost of production to the selling price, and hence it has been found necessary to demand considerable reductions in the rates of wages paid to the miners, which, in the three previous years, had generally been advanced by between 30 and 50 per cent. The process of reducing wages is always a troublesome and difficult one, and in 1892 it did not prove less so than usual. Several strikes took place as a consequence of proposals to lower the rate of wages, and much loss to owners and suffering to miners naturally followed. The attempt made in February to keep up the price of coal by a general suspension of production was in some respects a new departure, but it failed of its intended aim, and despite the general stoppage of work by the members of the Miners' Federation, and the large curtailment of output due to the strikes in Durham and elsewhere, prices have continued to fall.

Although there has been a good deal of complaint made during the past year, on the ground of lower prices for both home trade and export, it does not seem, from the export returns of official values, that the average price realized in 1892 was much under the average of the previous year. Up to the end of November the total exports of coal for the year amounted to 27,851,000

which depends entirely on Durham for coal supplies, and receives therefrom not less than five or six millions of tons annually. Deprived of coal and coke, the blast furnaces of Cleveland were either damped down or blown out, and the iron trade of the north-west coast was similarly affected. The suspension of labour in the Durham coal industry is estimated to have involved a loss to these two districts, in the iron trade alone, of nearly, if not quite, two millions sterling. The loss to the coalowners, and to the miners on strike, may be judged by the fact that the production while the strike lasted must have been reduced by nine or ten millions of tons. In the long run the miners had to resume work on the terms originally offered by the mineowners, so that they gained nothing by their protracted sufferings. The wages now paid in the Durham coal trade, and throughout the coal industry as a whole, are still higher than those paid previous to the advance that appeared in the latter part of 1888, and it is only too evident that further reductions of wages will be required in order to enable the employers to meet the steady fall of the market.

Since the Durham miners and the miners of one or two other districts have come to realize the fact that coal is falling in value, and that mineowners have a difficulty in producing it at a profit, they have begun to think more seriously of the future, and it appears to be probable that they will return to the sliding-scale system, which has regulated the rate of wages paid, both in the north of England and in South Wales, for a number of years. The difficulties that have led to the abandonment of this system in one or two cases are not insuperable. What is required is, first, that the *maximum* and the *minimum* rates payable under the scale are neither too high nor too low, and next that the scale responds with sufficient alacrity to the changes in the market. The Miners' Federation, which has its head-quarters in the Yorkshire coalfield, and which brought about the foolish panic as to the supply of coal by a suspension of work in February last, is opposed to the sliding-scale system,

and professes that the workmen can make better terms with their employers by holding themselves quite independent. The Welsh miners, who have not hitherto joined this federation, have for a few weeks past been in a condition of doubt as to whether they should throw over the scale or throw over the organization referred to. The miners appear to be dissatisfied with the recent operations of the scale, which have caused their wages to be considerably reduced during the last 18 months. On the other hand, however, the scale has now been in operation for a number of years, and has kept the relations of the two parties on a fairly friendly footing.

Although the exact statistics of production and consumption in the coal trade of the United Kingdom during 1892 will not be ascertained for some time to come, it is perfectly clear that there must have been a large falling off, as compared with either of the last two years. The production of pig iron during the first half of 1892 showed a reduction of well on to a million tons, while the volume of finished iron and steel, shipbuilding, engineering, and other industries that consume coal on a large scale must have proceeded on much the same lines. Our coal exports, again, have fallen off to the extent of over 800,000 tons for the first 11 months of the year, and as the winter has been a mild one, and the general condition of business is depressed, it is probable that domestic consumption has been less than usual. The 12 principal railway companies have been paying about 1s. less for coal than they did in 1891, so that their outlay on this head for the first six months of the year was only at the rate of £2,956,000 per annum, as compared with an actual expenditure for coal of £3,113,000 in 1891. In 1888, when coal was cheaper, the same companies only expended £1,743,000 on their coal-bill.

The coal trade, which is the foundation of the general manufacturing industry of the country, is at the same time the principal source of our shipping progress and prosperity, and contributes to the coffers of the railway companies a larger

annual amount than any other single source of revenue except passenger traffic. It is natural under these circumstances that the coal industry should have been regarded very leniently in the recent Parliamentary revision of *maximum* rates and charges. There are some who appear to think that the Legislature, as well as the Board of Trade, has made too much concession to this industry, and that it has unduly profited at the expense of the pig-iron and other industries, which likewise contribute a large volume of traffic, although placed in a higher class. But the railway companies have generally and consistently acted on the principle that cheap coal will admit other commodities to share the general prosperity which all desire, whereas dear coal would be certain to hinder the development of manufactures. On examining the new *maxima*, and comparing them with the old, it will be found that the coal trade is likely to be in a more advantageous position than that occupied by it under the old schedules. Taking as typical the schedules of the North-Western system, it appears that the new rates do not much differ from the old up to ten miles. Beyond that distance, the new *maxima* are considerably lower than the old, the difference in favour of the new rates increasing as the distance is extended, until for 100 miles the new rate comes to 5s. 10d., instead of 7s. 4d., which was the *maximum* under the old Acts. On the other hand, it is well to remember that Parliament has now distinctly recognized both station and service terminals, and that while the latter are not in any degree likely to affect the coal industry, the right to charge 3d. in the form of a station terminal, in each case where stations are used, is a new departure. It is quite true that under the old Acts a threepenny terminal was often charged for coal traffic, where stations were made use of, but this was not recognized as inevitable, whereas now the practice has become crystallized into a specific Act. The coal terminal, however, will only apply, as a rule, to domestic coal traffic, and will not apply to any extent to the traffic that is loaded at collieries, and unloaded at factories, furnaces, or works.

CAPITAL AND LABOUR.

(From The Times Correspondent.)

IF the year 1892 saw a conspicuous diminution in the number of conflicts of first-class magnitude between employers and workmen, it was none the less a year of peculiar interest to every student of social developments, by virtue of the new forms in which the problem involved in the words Capital and Labour made itself manifest, and by virtue of the new methods of operation which labour showed a tendency to adopt. Of the decrease in the number of direct conflicts, the state of trade was the principal cause. For many reasons, general and special, trade languished, and, since when trade is languid employment becomes the more precious as a privilege, workmen and their responsible leaders saw that the period of languor was not a suitable time for making fresh demands. The leaders and the workmen saw that, as month followed upon month, the number of skilled mechanics out of work grew more and more alarming; they saw at the beginning of the year blast furnaces being put out one after another, they knew that scores upon scores of employers were keeping their works going either at a loss or for a margin of profit so small that an excuse for stoppage would be welcome, and of all these things the natural tendency was towards peace. But there were other causes at work. The funds of one of the greatest of the old unions, that of the engineers, had been tried

severely by the expenses consequent upon the strike of November, 1891, which renewed itself in a half-hearted sort of way in the early part of 1892. The most aggressive of the new unions, the dockers' and the sailors' and firemen's organizations, had fought losing battles at great loss in 1891 ; the railway men were in similar case. Finally the leaders, having learned the lesson of prudence from bitter experience, began to show signs of understanding that no power comes to any man without corresponding responsibility. Mr. Burns and Mr. Mann, both men of strong personality, both distinguished from the beginnings of their careers by a certain kind of fierce honesty of purpose, appeared no longer as leaders of strikes, but they worked often quietly and industriously to prevent an outbreak. Their change of attitude was due, undoubtedly, to an appreciation of the state of trade and to a recognition that, of all the great strikes of recent years, the dock strike alone had attained so much as the appearance of success, while in every case where employers had fought with resolution the strikers had been worsted.

For these reasons and others the great conflicts of the year were reduced to three, of which two were connected with the coal trade, while the third, connected with the cotton trade, is still in progress. Concerning this last conflict, since it is not at an end and since I have not studied it at the scene of action—and such study is a condition precedent to any accurate perception of the merits or the chances of a struggle—I shall say nothing. The two conflicts in the coal trade were of grave importance. Early in March the public at large became aware that the Miners' Federation, which embraces almost the whole of the English and Welsh collieries, save those of the extreme North of England and South Wales, had determined to cause a cessation of work in all collieries under its control for an indefinite period, beginning on the 12th of March. The object of this decision was simply to raise the wholesale price of coal at the pit's mouth by restriction of output, but the whole scheme was conceived in a spirit of unwisdom and imprudence.

All observers of the course of trade knew that the constitution of trade was in anything rather than a robust condition at the time ; that the contracts for the supply of coal which had been renewed about that time were uniformly based upon a lower price than previously ; that consumers of coal upon a large scale could not afford to add to the cost of producing manufactured articles by paying an increased price for coal. The stoppage was, in fact, a cruelly stupid attempt to interfere with the natural course of trade. Its only results were that a serious strain was placed upon the already straitened resources of manufacturers, that some 300,000 colliers lost a week's wages, that there was a panic among small consumers in London, and that, in consequence of that panic, coal merchants were able to sell at famine prices coal which they had bought wholesale at normal prices. Coal merchants and consumers were accused respectively of roguery and panicstricken folly ; but, as a fact, each class acted as men will always act under like circumstances. Coal merchants did not neglect their opportunity of making large profits ; consumers were seized with panic, which was not altogether unreasonable albeit it ran to excess, for the weather was cold, and great numbers of people, among the comfortable classes no less than the poor, had to face the fact that they could not store much coal and that the duration of the period of stoppage was indefinite. The best thing to be said for the authors of the stoppage is that, at the end of a week, they were able to recognize their mistake. Of course they said their object had been realized, but the statement was untrue, for the men returned to work at the old rates.

Meanwhile a totally distinct conflict between the Durham miners and their employers had been going on vigorously. Here there was no attempt on the part of the men to interfere with the course of trade or to make a corner in coal. The simple issue was whether the men should or should not accept a reduction in their wages which the masters declared to be inevitable. Events have shown that the masters were right in their judgment,

but, in a practical world, in which men have a right to refuse to sell their labour at a price which seems to them inadequate, the men had a right to fight for their own interests as long as they did not become liable to the criminal law. In deciding to resist a reduction they acted, at the worst, with injudicious folly. But their manner of fighting was criminal, and the incidents of their resistance were disgraceful. First they mobbed a reporter; then sporadic riots burst out all over the county, Hebburn, Consett, and Houghton-le-Spring being the worst centres. Many of the disturbances were quite irrational; at Consett the pitmen stoned ironworkers who were filling coal from the stocks of the Consett Iron Company. Some of the acts of violence were simply suicidal; at Houghton-le-Spring the men would not allow their own water supply to be provided, and in many places the pitmen did all that in them lay to kill the goose which might some day lay golden eggs again, by molesting those who were pumping away the water which threatened to drown the collieries. All the riots were marked by dastardly cowardice. At Pelton Fell eight pit ponies were burned to death, and in no case did the men who had recourse to violence show fight when they were opposed by anything approaching to an adequate force. At Hebburn, for example, the pitmen turned out the street lamps and stoned the police, but when the police charged the pitmen fled helter-skelter, and those who were caught crouched upon the ground, crying for mercy so piteously that the sturdy constables of Newcastle passed them for the most part with a contemptuous kick. At last the military were called down to Hebburn, and five minutes after their arrival that colliery village was as dark and quiet as a city of the dead, though the hour was barely 9 p.m. The progress towards settlement was slow. The masters were united and resolved; the men were stubborn to the last degree, were living rent free, were paying nobody for anything which could be obtained on credit, were extorting credit by threats of taking away custom in the future, and had no confidence in their leaders. The end did not come for months; when it did

come the men went back upon a reduction, having lost a vast sum in wages, having caused a great loss to the masters—a loss which could not fail to react upon the men—and having wrought incalculable havoc in the iron districts. Meanwhile the South Wales miners, guided by the powerful hand of the Sliding Scale Committee, upon which Sir William Lewis and Mr. W. Abraham, M.P., are the leading spirits, and the Northumbrian miners, guided principally by Mr. Burt, were meeting the depression in trade in the spirit of common sense. Of late, it should be added, strenuous efforts have been made to divorce the South Wales miners from the sliding scale and to induce them to join the Miners' Federation, but, in spite of the fact that a reduction has been inevitable at the opening of the new year, these efforts have been without success.

Meanwhile, the Labour Commission has continued to hold sittings and to hear heterogeneous evidence, but the reports of its proceedings have almost ceased to attract public attention, and it is doubtful whether men expect any fruit, other than a plentiful harvest of Blue-books, from its deliberations. The reasons of this state of the public mind are not far to seek. The Commission seems inclined, like Lord Tennyson's brook, to go on for ever. Witnesses come and witnesses go, complaining sometimes of grievances that are dead and gone, giving a great deal of irrelevant evidence, indulging in a vast amount of mutual recrimination, ventilating many crude schemes of municipalization, of conciliation, and so forth. The Commission seems to have lost sight of the original terms of reference. It was appointed to inquire into disputes which had arisen recently in the United Kingdom, and to suggest such remedies as might seem appropriate, to find the causes of recent strikes and locks-out, and to see whether they could be avoided in the future. It is inquiring into the relation between employer and employed everywhere, on the Continent—at the Hague, for example—and in America; it is compiling a *précis* of an immense amount of literature; it is collecting information which may be useful

and interesting some day to the student, but it is giving too much freedom to its witnesses, it lacks the practical spirit, it is not sufficiently careful of the present, and the world is moving onwards. Labour, in particular, is taking new steps. It has increased its representation in Parliament, and the Labour party, with no object in life save that of increasing wages and shortening hours, will surely be troublesome to all political parties. This I say, well knowing the constituent units of the Labour party—their fierce energy, their recklessness of consequences, and their impulsive ignorance. Labour, too, for the present, holds the London County Council in the hollow of its hand. Its representatives—for the Progressives are little more than Labour representatives—have gone straight to the root of things and are endeavouring with apparent success to prescribe the wages which shall be paid, in the long run by the ratepayers, to the men who have placed the representatives of labour in power. There will be some who will say that from this point of view a year comparatively sterile of strikes has been more full of presage of trouble to come than many a turbulent year.

AGRICULTURE.

THE year 1892 will long be remembered as one of the worst which the British farmer has ever experienced. For many years past we have been living in a range of moderate prices, while since 1879 the seasons have been but moderate, even when they have not been bad. The result has been that almost all through the eighties landlords have been called upon to make abatements of rents, tenants have become poorer and poorer, and less and less labour has been employed. When, therefore, a year comes like 1892, with a harsh and cold spring and early summer, which not only provides but little keep for live stock, but results in a hay crop of less than half an average; in which a wet harvest-time spoils an already deficient corn harvest; and in which cattle and sheep lose in the markets nearly a third of their value—it is something more to the farmers than the last straw. Such has been the case in 1892. The losses have been greater than our impoverished agriculture can bear, and the result is that all over the country farms are being given up, and all classes connected with the land—owners, tenants, and labourers—find ruin staring them in the face. What the result will be, unless relief in the shape of higher prices and better seasons come promptly, no one can tell; but probably next March will see a very large number of farms thrown on owners' hands, in addition to the large number given up at Michaelmas.

The story of the seasons and the crops can be soon told. The winter protracted itself into a harsh and severe spring, which kept all spring crops in check and kept the pastures bare, so that after one of the longest and most expensive winters in memory, stock had to be fed with purchased food long into the summer. A few showers in May did some good, but at the end of that month in many districts the prospects of the hay crops were returned as *nil*. In the middle of June there was a severe frost, which undid much of the good done by the showers and warmth of the previous month, and the reports from all parts of the country which came to hand during the Warwick show in Midsummer week showed that the rains which had fallen had not been sufficient to counteract the effects of the long drought in spring and early summer, and the hay crop promised to be very light. While the late hay crop was being harvested in July heavy rains fell, and much of the small crop was spoilt. Early in August the corn harvest began under favourable circumstances in the earlier districts, but the progress made was not considerable, owing to the lateness of the crops, and in the middle of August it was daily becoming more evident that a good deal of harvest work would have to be done in September, even if the weather should continue favourable till the end of August. Towards the end of August, the weather became unsettled, and reports of threshings showed that, with the exception of barley, the early-harvested corn crops were not giving satisfactory yields. The first fortnight of September was marked by heavy storms, which did great damage in the cornfields, and this was followed by a week's fine weather, which enabled farmers in the southern and midland counties to clear their fields. Then came a broken season, which sadly retarded harvesting in the northern and eastern counties, and week after week came reports of still ungathered crops and of their spoiling in the fields. In going to the Norwich show, late in November, we passed two fields of wheat which were in the stook in the fields—ungathered and black. The rains which did so much damage to the corn crops

did good to the roots and the pastures, with the result that with an open winter live stock have been brought on to mid-winter at less expense than was expected, while a good crop of roots has been secured for future use.

As far as the actual harvest of the year is concerned, hay is generally regarded as half a crop, while the final estimates collected for *The Times* on the 1st of October put the wheat crop at 82·7 ; barley, 97·0 ; oats, 93·1 ; potatoes, 95·2 ; and beans at 80·9. On October 22 Sir J. B. Lawes issued his carefully-prepared report on the wheat crop, in which he pointed out that the experimental plots at Rothamsted gave a yield of less than 26 bushels per acre, or four bushels less than in 1891, but that, as the crops were gathered early, it would not be safe to reckon on a crop of more than 22 bushels per acre for the country. The earlier returns to the *Agricultural Gazette* gave 10·3 per cent. of the returns on the wheat crop as over average, 38·1 per cent. average, and 51·1 per cent. under average, oats being slightly better and barley about an average. On Christmas Eve the Board of Agriculture issued the first summary of the produce statistics of the year, putting the three cereal crops rather higher than had been generally accepted by the markets, while with wheat it seems generally thought that allowance had not been made for the large proportion of damaged grain so freely reported during the latter portion of the disastrous and protracted harvest. As far as the yields per acre are concerned, the figures for 1892, as compared with 1891 and with the average of the seven years 1885-91, were given for Great Britain as follows :—

YIELDS OF CORN CROPS PER ACRE.

	Yield per Acre in			+Increase / -Decrease Compared with	
	1892.	1891.	Seven years 1885-91.	1891.	Seven years 1885-91.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat ...	26·38	31·26	30·03	−4·88	−3·65
Barley ...	34·61	34·14	32·19	+0·47	+2·42
Oats ...	38·80	38·77	38·01	+0·03	+0·79

The total yields of these crops, as estimated in these returns, were given as follows for 1892 and 1891 :—

—	1892.	1891.	+Increase. -Decrease.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat	58,560,932	72,127,263	-13,566,331
Barley	70,501,562	72,129,095	-1,627,533
Oats	116,294,989	112,386,261	+4,008,728

It will thus be seen that, according to these figures, both oats and barley are above the average in yields, wheat being the only cereal below the average. This latter cereal produced 13,566,331 bushels less than last year—a combination of reduced area and deficient yield; barley, with a reduced area, 1,627,533 bushels less than in 1891; while oats, also with a reduced area, give over four million bushels more than last year. But it is doubtful if, in any case, these figures are true of marketable grain.

The official statistics on the cropping of the year are by no means satisfactory, there being for the United Kingdom (for which the figures are published earlier than usual) a decrease of 191,570 acres under all kinds of crops; of 114,808 acres under corn; of 43,538 acres under green crops; and of 82,383 acres under rotation and permanent grass. The full returns on the various crops, giving comparisons with 1891, are as follows :—

CROP AREAS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1891 AND 1892.
(United Kingdom including Isle of Man and Channel Islands.)

—	1891.	1892.	+Increase. -Decrease.
Total area of land water	77,642,099	77,642,099	—
Total acreage under all kinds of crops, bare fallow and grass (*)	48,179,473	47,977,903	-191,570
CORN CROPS—			
Wheat	2,392,245	2,298,607	- 93,638
Barley or bere	2,298,978	2,220,243	-78,635
Oats	4,128,127	4,238,036	+109,909
Rye...	60,148	61,392	+1,244
Beans	359,039	315,413	-43,626
Peas	204,972	195,010	-9,996
Total corn crops ...	9,443,509	9,328,701	-114,808

(*) Not including nursery grounds, woods, and plantations, or unenclosed mountain or heath land.

CROP AREAS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1891 AND 1892 (continued) :—

(United Kingdom including Isle of Man and Channel Islands.)

—	1891.	1892.	+Increase. -Decrease.
GREEN CROPS—			
Potatoes	1,296,763	1,276,835	-19,928
Turnips and swedes	2,227,050	2,245,998	+18,948
Mangold	406,930	413,334	+6,404
Cabbage, Kohi-rabi, and rape...	207,260	198,985	-8,365
Vetches or tares...	234,210	24,399	-29,811
Other green crops	138,440	127,654	-10,786
Total of green crops ...	4,510,653	4,467,115	-43,538
Clover, sainfoin, and grasses under rotation... ... ... — For hay ...	2,738,170	2,772,065	+33,895
Clover, sainfoin, and grasses under rotation... ... ... — Not for hay ...	3,276,867	3,201,391	-75,476
Total	6,015,037	5,973,456	-48,581
Permanent pasture or grass (not broken up in rotation) (*) ... — For hay ...	5,973,489	6,018,308	+44,819
Permanent pasture or grass (not broken up in rotation) (*) ... — Not for hay ...	21,593,639	21,515,018	-78,621
Total	27,567,128	27,533,326	-33,802

—	1891.	1892.	+Increase. -Decrease.
Flax	76,477	72,065	-4,412
Hops	56,145	56,259	+114
Small fruit (†)	59,122	62,547	+3,245
Bare fallow or uncropped arable land ...	451,402	484,434	+33,032

(*) Exclusive of unenclosed mountain or heath land.
(†) Not returned in Ireland.

As showing the effect which the past 20 years has had on our agriculture, it may be useful to give the figures for 1872, as compared with 1892, of the areas devoted to our leading divisions of crops. These are as follows :—

CHANGES IN CROPPING IN 20 YEARS.

—	1872.	1892.	+Increase. -Decrease.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Corn crops ...	11,698,245	9,328,701	-2,369,544
Green crops ...	5,111,994	4,467,115	-644,879
Clovers and rotation grasses...	6,354,319	5,973,456	-380,863
Permanent pasture	22,838,178	27,533,326	+4,695,148
Other crops ...	199,291	190,871	-8,420
Bare fallow ...	667,299	484,434	-182,865
Total cultivated area...	46,869,326	47,977,903	+1,108,577

It may be mentioned that one of the greatest decreases is the wheat crop. In 1872 3,839,532 acres were devoted to this crop, and in 1892 only 2,298,607, a decrease of no less than 1,540,925 acres.

The seed harvest of the year, like that for corn, has been, for the second year in succession, very disappointing, as is shown in the following report which has been prepared by Mr. Martin J. Sutton, as in previous years, for this summary :—

"There is no pleasant report to be given of the seed harvest of 1892. Its disappointment equals in degree that occasioned by the failure of the corn harvest ; so that, while prices will be kept down to an unremunerative point by importations of inferior quality seeds from abroad, there is no temptation, as there used to be, for wheat-growing farmers, when prices were low, to turn their attention to the production of seeds. In no way are seed-growers able to congratulate themselves upon being in a better position than agriculturists generally, while in certain respects their department of farming is exceptionally affected by the conditions obtaining. Not even the consumer can profit by the seed farmer's losses, for the greatest care and promptitude will have to be used by purchasers if they are to secure their seed requirements before the comparatively small supply of reliable stocks has been exhausted. The seed trade has to do with so many hundred varieties that it is impossible to give anything like an exhaustive report of the seed growths harvested last autumn and now being threshed out. It must suffice to mention a few leading crops, the results of which have been more especially affected by the very unpropitious spring, summer, and autumn of 1892. The very light first-cutting of hay made it impossible to spare so much aftermath red clover for seed as usual, and what little was left was spoilt by the deluges of cold rain in October. Trefoil and white clover are not likely to be more plentiful than last year. Indeed, alsike is the only variety good in quality and reasonable in value. Rye

grasses are exceptionally high in price and small in bulk, which remark applies to the Italian variety as well as the perennial sort. The mangold seed crop (which is of increasing importance, seeing that last spring there were 6,440 more acres sown with mangold seeds for roots than the year before) has caused great anxiety during the whole season. This time last year there were fewer roots planted out for seed than usual, owing to the wet, ungenial autumn, and the severe frosts seriously injured them. The dry, harsh spring was detrimental to the prospect of the crop, but the midsummer rains and the fine weather in August and September improved the plant, with the result that, though it was not ready to harvest till late in October, what seed there is is of good quality and high germinating power. Swede and turnip seed has been most disappointing. The average yield this year has been reduced by early spring drought, causing blight, maggot, and mildew to 13 bushels per acre, as against an average of 26 bushels per acre last year and an average of 20 bushels per acre for the previous ten years. The seeds of yellow-fleshed turnips, for which there is an increasing demand in New Zealand, are likely to rule higher than ever in values. There is a great scarcity of mustard seed, largely resulting from the depredations of the mustard beetle, which has so deplorably injured the crops in the fens. Some practical effort to deal with this pest must be made if the crop is still to be grown in England. The pea crop, in consequence of the cold, ungenial spring and lack of moisture, is a bad one, and fine samples are few and far between. Broad beans were very much injured by the wet autumn, and are likely to be even scarcer than peas. Some of the smaller garden seeds are deplorably deficient. Broccoli seed, which was supposed to be a good crop, is threshing out very lightly, and onion seeds, now for the third or fourth year in succession, are equally disappointing. Radish seed, which used to be grown largely in England, we are now practically dependent upon France for, in which country this year the

crop has proved a remarkable failure. As regards the grass-seed harvest, this has practically become a matter of absolute indifference to the English farmer as a producer, for the free importation of natural grasses from Germany, Holland, Sweden, Russia, Bohemia, and the colonies long since absolutely destroyed the English grass-growing industry. Sixty years ago my father, who was the first in England to offer prescriptions of grasses to suit various soils and purposes, could obtain the seeds he required from English farmers. To-day the many thousands of pounds sent abroad in payment for European, Australian, and American grasses might be kept at home, if such a reasonable import duty were imposed as would again make grass-seed growing in England a paying industry ; and the adoption of that reasonable foreign modification of the hours of schooling in country districts, which frees the child in the summer to assist its parents in agricultural pursuits and devotes the spring, autumn, and winter to full school discipline, would provide that cheap labour needed for the picking and harvesting of the seeds of the grasses. Meanwhile, until this valuable lost industry is re-established by a modification of our present fiscal system, we are dependent upon foreign supplies and the skill and care of the English seed importer in selecting the finest samples after repeated microscopic tests and trials of germination. Generally speaking, the crop of natural grasses is shorter than expected, on account of the dry, cold spring, and the prices will be even higher than they would be otherwise, in sympathy with the high rates at which the rye grasses are selling."

Like 1891, the year 1892 was a very trying one for hop growers, aphides and cold combining to retard growth, but a little warmth in August and September improved the situation, the result being that the growth of the year turned out to be of good quality and above the average. The Board of Agriculture returned the yield at 413,259cwt., and this on 56,259 acres gives an average of 7·35cwt. for every acre, or a crop rather above the

average of the past 50 years. It was not, however, so large a crop as 1891, when a crop of 436,716cwt. was realized, an average of 7·78cwt. per acre.

Turning to live stock, the year has been one almost of disaster to both the grazier and the breeder. The breeding season was a moderate one both for calves and lambs, though in some of the larger flocks there were complaints of small crops. The difficulty came with the cold and harsh spring and early summer, which prevented the growth of spring keep and caused the pastures to be bare, so that stock could only be kept at great cost for purchased food and with the greatest difficulty. The failure of the hay crop and the absence of grass until late in the summer increased the difficulty. So far as the numbers of farm live stock are concerned, the chief feature is the reduction in the number of young cattle and lambs and an enormous decrease in pigs—the former being explained by the moderate drop of calves and lambs, and the latter by the higher prices prevailing and the very general prevalence of swine fever. The figures for the year, as compared with 1891, are as follows :—

NUMBERS OF LIVE STOCK IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1891 AND 1892.

(United Kingdom including Isle of Man and Channel Islands).

—	1891.	1892.	+Increase. −Decrease.
HORSES	2,026,170	2,067,549	+41,379
CATTLE :—			
Cows and heifers in milk or in calf	4,117,707	4,120,451	+2,744
Other cattle—two years and above	2,473,808	2,719,615	+245,807
Other cattle—under two years	4,752,171	4,679,351	−72,820
Total	11,343,686	11,519,417	+175,731
SHEEP :—			
One year old and above ...	20,614,807	20,881,837	+267,030
Under one year old	12,919,181	12,760,971	−158,210
Total	33,533,988	33,642,808	+108,820
PIGS	4,272,764	3,265,898	−1,006,866

As with cropping, so with live stock. It may be useful to give the changes in our live stock during the past 20 years, these showing a very satisfactory increase in each section, with the exception of pigs, and here the decline is more than accounted for by the drop this year. The figures for 1872 and 1892 are as follows :—

—	1872.	1892.	+Decrease,] -Increase.
	No.	No.	No.
Horses	1,808,259	2,067,549	+259,290
Cattle	9,718,505	11,519,417	+1,800,505
Sheep	32,246,642	33,642,808	+1,396,166
Pigs	4,178,000	3,265,898	-912,102

It has been in the markets that the greatest disaster has overtaken the owners of stock. Owing to the absence of keep and the failure of the hay crop, the markets were flooded with half-fattened cattle and sheep until they became a drug. Prices went down enormously, and this continued right up to the Christmas markets, when there was a better demand for really well-finished stock. At the great lamb fairs and sales prices were considerably lower than in 1891, and, as this followed a drop in values which had been going on since 1889, the distress in the great sheep-breeding districts has become very severe. Speaking generally, pure-bred cattle and sheep have also sold badly, the records of sales both in England and Scotland showing the lowest prices on record. In Scotland the sales of 815 head of pure-bred shorthorns only realized an average of £22 9s. 2d., against £24 4s. 1d. in 1891; and of 1,013 head of Aberdeen Angus cattle £22 13s. 8d., against £26 15s. 10d. Flockmasters in Scotland were also severely hit, the prices prevailing for sheep being the lowest on record.

The decline in the value of pure-bred shorthorns still continues, 1892 being marked by the lowest average price yet recorded; and yet in some respects the year has been a record one for high prices, the season opening with the great sale from the Queen's herd at Windsor, when 1,000 guineas was given by the Earl of Feversham for the famous bull New

Year's Gift, 57,796, which had been shown six times and had won six first and four champion prizes. In his annual summary, which appears in the New Year's *Shorthorn Circular*, Mr. John Thornton points out that this sum "was first given for Comet in 1810, again in 1854, and frequently afterwards for females up to 1884, again for a bull in 1888, and not since till now." In all an average of £75 8s. was made for the 36 animals sold from the Royal herd. Among the other noteworthy sales of the year may be mentioned those of Mr. A. H. Lloyd, in Surrey, where 43 animals averaged £46 16s. 3d. each; Mr. Hugh Aylmer, in Norfolk, where 53 head averaged £41 15s.; Mr. T. Holford, in Warwick, where 23 head averaged £63 8s. 3d., and where one animal sold for 200 guineas; and the Earl of Bective, Westmorland, when an average of £30 9s. was made for 43 head, one of which sold for 205 guineas. In all there have been 40 sales held this year, at which 1,832 head were sold at an average of £23 14s. 3d., or a total of £43,448 4s. 3d. In 1891 the average was £25 13s. 6d.; in 1890, £28 13s. 10d., while for the 22 years, 1869-90, the average was £45 15s. per head.

Pure-bred sheep sales have not been highly encouraging, the general run of prices being much lower than they were last year. The highest figure made this year was 160 guineas, for a Shropshire ram bred by Mrs. Barrs, this being 40 guineas less than the best figure of last year and 35 guineas less than was then made by the same breeder. Lord Polwarth made 150 guineas and 120 guineas each for two of his Shropshire rams, Mr. Inge 110 guineas, and Messrs. Evans 135 guineas. In Hampshires, Mr. W. Newton obtained 76 guineas for the use of a Hampshire ram lamb for six weeks, and Mr. R. Coles disposed of another of the same breed for 65 guineas. The averages of Hampshire Downs ran up as high as 13 guineas for the best flocks, but the all-round average was considerably less than last year. Mr. J. Treadwell's Oxford Downs brought an average of only 15 guineas, as compared with 23 guineas last

year. Amongst Lincoln sheepbreeders, Mr. H. Dudding, in several instances, made 100 guineas for his rams. The best figures for other breeds include 20 guineas for Leicester rams, 22 guineas for Dorset Horns, Border Leicesters 150 guineas, black-faces £55, Cheviots £50, Wensleydales £20, and Suffolks 47 guineas.

Of all stock, whether pedigree or otherwise, horseflesh has been the most profitable, good prices having been made alike for shires, Clydesdales, and hackneys. The great event of the season was Mr. Walter Gilbey's purchase of the hackney stallion Danegelt for 5,000 guineas. Danegelt was bred by Mr. George Bourdass, of Hunmanby, Yorkshire, and was a winner at the York show of the Royal, and subsequently won three prizes at Manchester and Yorkshire. He has done good service in the stud, and is looked upon as one of the best hackney stallions in existence. Another important sale was that of the hackney stallion Cadet, for which an American purchaser paid 3,000 guineas. In draught horses 1,400 guineas was given to Mr. Arkwright for Marmion 2d, by Harold, which won first and champion prizes at the Royal Plymouth Show. This was purchased by Mr. Frad Crisp, of New Southgate, already the possessor of some high-priced animals, and the figure he gave was the topmost ever made in the sale ring for a shire horse. At the same sale 500 guineas was given for Scarsdale Rocket and 420 guineas for Scarsdale Sparkle, the average of the stud of 48 animals being £113 8s. 6d. At the Prince of Wales's sale at Sandringham one mare made 370 guineas and another 350 guineas, the average of 41 animals sold being £113 8s. At the Shire Horse Show and sale at Islington a few good prices were made, amongst them being the mare Tulip, by Harold, for which Mr. Ryland gave 380 guineas. The top figure made by Mr. Chandos Pole-Gell at Hopton was 170 guineas for the mare Jet, by Bar None, which went to Sandringham, the average being £51 18s. 1d. Mr. Fred Crisp made an average of £51 for 63 animals, his top figure being

165 guineas for the mare Kol, her Majesty the Queen purchasing the three-year-old filly Vesta of Worsley 6th, by Vulcan, at 135 guineas. Lord Winmarleigh received 225 guineas from Mr. J. J. Jackson for the brood mare Wagtail, his average for 17 animals being £74 8s. Amongst private sales, Mr. Green's Carbonite, by Carbon, passed to Lord Rothschild for 1,100 guineas, and Lord Belper's Burgundy, by Harold, to Colonel Platt for 1,000 guineas. Two noted stallions have died during the year, Premier (2,646) and Bar None (2,388), both of which have left some splendid offspring. Amongst Clydesdales 1,000 guineas was paid for a two-year-old filly, that being the top price of the season. A feature of the year has been the high prices paid for the stud services of well-known stallions, Vulcan being let to the Welshpool Society for £1,000, Chancellor to the Peterborough Society for £500, and Mr. Muntz's Forest King to the Montgomery Shire Society for a similar sum.

The health of stock in Great Britain is generally good, although there are more cases of swine fever than there ought to be. The efforts made by the Board of Agriculture to stamp out pleuro-pneumonia have had a large degree of success, the decrease in outbreaks during the whole of the year having been marked by a pleasing continuity, the position with regard to this disease being better now than at any time since the passing of the Pleuro-Pneumonia Act, 1890. It has seemed more than once as if the disease had been entirely got rid of, but outbreaks in lesser number have continued to arise. In September the Secretary of the United States Board of Agriculture announced the freedom of that country from pleuro-pneumonia, in the expectancy that henceforth American cattle would be admitted free to this country. Three days after this proclamation some cases were found in Canadian cattle which had been imported into Scotland, and it is maintained by the Canadians that these affected animals, if suffering from pleuro-pneumonia, must have come to this country from the United States, *vid* Canada. This

introduction of pleuro-pneumonia has resulted in the discontinuance of the importation of Canadian cattle. Foot-and-mouth disease broke out at the beginning of the year, and threatened to be of serious import, but the vigorous steps taken by the Board of Agriculture resulted as quickly as could be expected in the extermination of the disease. There has been a much greater prevalence of glanders and farcy, or, at all events, there seems to be a great many more cases reported than there used to be; but the bulk of these are found, not on the farms, but in the stables of large horse-keepers in the trading centres. The experience of the past year has emphasized the need there is of including swine fever with foot-and-mouth disease and pleuro-pneumonia in the provisions of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, and it would be far better if the plan were adopted of slaughtering all foreign animals at the ports of debarcation, so that disease could not be thus introduced into the country.

For the dairy farmer the year has been a bad one. The spring and summer were cold and wet, and not only did cattle do badly, but the flow of milk was small, leading to complaints of shortness of supply for the towns, and to a smaller make of both butter and cheese. For the latter better prices have prevailed for the better qualities—about 10s. per cwt. in the Cheddar district—but this has been entirely in consequence of scarcity.

The year 1892 has had one special feature which has stood out boldly throughout its history, and that has been the steady decline in the value of wheat. From January to December there has been no break in that decline, the result being that, whereas on January 2 the average price for home-grown stood at 36s. 4d., it now stands at 25s. 9d. per quarter—a drop of 10s. 7d. on the year. Homegrown barley and oats have also had a sympathetic drop in values, the former from 29s. 3d. per quarter to 24s. 6d. and the latter from 20s. 10d. to 16s. 10d. This drop has not been confined to British

corn, but has been very general in the grain trade. The reasons are various. The 1891 wheat crop in America was enormous, and probably no one will ever know how big it was, and this has been followed by a big acreage in 1892. The Russian famine scare and exaggerated reports of the deficiency in the 1891 crop in France and Germany caused all the importing countries to buy much larger quantities than they needed; hence the stocks are unwieldy and press heavily on the holders.

The Continental crop of 1892 is large, and France is importing practically nothing. The enormous drop on wheat of 14s. to 16s. per quarter, which has been accompanied by a smaller one in maize, barley, and feeding stuffs, has of necessity caused the year to be a disastrous one not only for corn growers in this country, but also for corn importers and merchants, but the latter have borne the strain well, and failures have not been numerous. So far as the future is concerned for the trade but little can be said. It seems to be admitted on all sides that no wheat-growing country can export at present prices without loss, and we may therefore look for a gradual return of confidence in the trade and a steady, though perhaps very slow and not immediate, increase in price. The cold weather with which the year has ended has caused a slightly firmer tone to prevail all round. There is but little more to be said on the situation than this, except that the following table (compiled from *Dornbusch*) gives the prices of various kinds of wheat and flour at different markets at the end of the years 1890, 1891, and 1892 :—

PRICES OF WHEAT AND FLOUR IN 1892, 1891, 1890.

Markets and Varieties.	Prices on Dec. 17, 1892.		Dec. 19, 1891.		Dec. 20, 1890.
Mark-lane :—	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
English white wheat, per 504lb.... ...	25 6 to 32 6		40 0 to 44 0		33 0 to 37 6
South Russian, per 496lb.	23 6 to 30 6		41 0 to 44 0		31 0 to 38 0
Australian, per 496lb.	33 0 to 34 0		45 0 to 46 0		36 6 to 38 6

PRICES OF WHEAT AND FLOUR IN 1892, 1891, 1890—(continued).

Markets and Varieties.	Prices on Dec. 17, 1892.	Dec. 19, 1891.	Dec. 20, 1890.
Mark-lane :—	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.
No. 2 Calcutta Club, per 496lb. ...	29 0 to 30 6	39 0 to 40 0	35 0 to 35 6
London household flour, per 280lb. ...	23 6 to 24 0	32 6 to 33 0	27 6 to 28 0
Minnesota first bakers' flour, per 280lb.	18 6 to 19 6	30 0 to 31 0	27 6 to 28 0
Liverpool :—			
Spot No. 1 Californian, per 100lb. ...	6 4 to 6 5	8 9½ to 9 10½	7 6½ to 7 8
Paris :—			
Term wheat, month, per 480lb. ...	36s. 1d.	46s. 7d.	46s. 5d.
Berlin :—			
Term wheat, month, per 480lb. ...	32s. 1½d.	49s. 2½d.	41s. 6½d.
New York :—			
Spot Red Winter, f.o.b., per 480lb.	26s. 7d.	36s. 11½d.	36s. 10½d.

Entomologically the year has been one of some interest, not the least important feature being that Miss E. A. Ormerod, owing to increasing work and ill-health, has been compelled to resign her post as honorary consulting entomologist to the Royal Agricultural Society of England. Her annual reports to that body will be much missed, but she will still continue her independent help to all troubled with insect pests, and she has very kindly written for *The Times* the following report on the insect injury of the year :—

"During the past year a greater number of kinds of crop and fruit insect infestations have been present than are usually observable. Of most of these up to date an enumeration was given in *The Times* of September 26. They included attacks to almost all our common field crops, but were rarely serious, excepting locally. The widespread visitations were chiefly of pea weevils and of mangold leaf maggot, also of caterpillars of diamond-back moth on turnips and allied plants ; severe mischief from

mustard beetles in various districts, and also severe mischief from corn aphides popularly known as plant lice. Of the above attacks the pea-leaf weevil is one which rarely occurs as a serious field pest, but last year it caused much loss in Worcestershire and Bedfordshire, and especially in Essex, where, from observations even of a single reporter (in the neighbourhood of Chelmsford), 1,000 acres were found to be seriously damaged, and repeated sowing needed, each successive crop being swept off.

"During the autumn information has come to hand of the presence of a minute mangold beetle (an *atomaria*) which is excessively injurious to young beets or mangolds even from their germination, and which, being extremely small and mainly an underground worker, has thus probably escaped detection as the cause of bad unexplained mischief here for some years back. An eelworm attack of great importance to growers of delicate fruit, under glass, has at date of writing been submitted for examination. It is excessively destructive by literally overwhelming the roots of various kinds of plants (in the present case tomatoes and cucumbers) with gall growths. It multiplies very rapidly and numerously, and once established is almost impossible to exterminate, and where climate suits affects crop roots, as those of peas, potatoes, &c. In every respect as far as I have as yet seen it agrees with the eelworm known as the *Heterodera radicicola*. Every attention, including consultation with the highest Continental authority, is being given to this attack, which is of grave importance, and it will shortly be fully reported on.

"The infestation of the 'Mediterranean flour moth,' of which the caterpillars have of late years become a great trouble in our wheat flour mills, has become still more difficult to exterminate by extending into an international infestation. It has been exported from London direct to Moscow; it is now established in many mills in France, and has spread in the United States to Santa Clara Co., on the shores of the Pacific.

"More inquiry than usual has been sent regarding insect attacks to colonial produce. Early in the year communication took place regarding applications which checked attack of a large beetle grub to sugar cane in Mauritius, and also communication extending over many months, by request of the Agricultural Society of Barbados and with the co-operation of many residents in the West Indies and of London firms regarding a small 'shot-borer' beetle (*Xyleborus perforans*) which caused much harm to sugar cane in Barbados, St. Vincent, and other West Indian Islands. An attack of a good-sized beetle, highly injurious to cocoa trees, was also identified (as the *Steirastoma depressa*), and in this case also measures which it was considered might lessen the evil brought forward.

"In the East Indies communication has taken place from one or more of the tea-growing districts, and consequently on a series of experiments as to effects of applications for keeping down 'red spide,' a ton and a half of a special soft soap mixture has recently been ordered for export.

"From the south of Africa (King Williamstown) inquiry was sent as to an infestation of large hairy moth caterpillars (*Bombyx*), of which the presence (as in Europe) caused harm to stock feeding where the hairs had fallen—only in this case in the serious form of abortion. Also from the North of Africa in the neighbourhood of Algiers specimens were sent of mole crickets, with inquiry as to prevention of the great damage they were doing to underground portions of crops. Inquiry was also sent through our own Royal Agricultural Society regarding damage done in vineyards of Mr. Gilbey by a beetle allied to our English turnip flea beetle. Other inquiries of less importance were forwarded, but the above observations show the increasing interest taken in the subject of the possibility of checking loss from insect ravage by reasonable measures.

"At home steady advance is being made, with success, notably in respect of treatment of orchard pests, also a troublesome insect pest to hops, known as the 'strig maggot,' has bee n

found amenable to being cleared out by very practicable farm treatment. At present the difficulties of mustard-growing from insect infestation are under consideration in various districts, and practical experiment being arranged for from which there is every hope of benefit.

"But in the great advance which is steadily made, year by year, in knowledge of how to lessen loss from crop insect pests, it cannot be too strongly brought forward, and insisted on, how much of this is owing to the observations (and clear reports of their observations) by our farmers themselves. Few of them (as of the general public) may know the scientific names of insects, but they, in many cases, know the habits excellently, far beyond what is known by some of those who, in the present movement, think themselves competent to rank as instructors. Technical instruction is, doubtless, often much needed, but where this is not based on personal field study, as well as study of trustworthy authorities (a matter requiring more attention than it receives), erroneous instruction is apt to be desseminated, and there are few cases in which those almost wholly inexperienced in agricultural requirements can lay down rules, trustworthily, on the subjects of treatments of crops and weeds, cultivation, soils and manures, chemical applications, adaptations of ordinary and special implements, uses of special methods of feeding stock on land, and many other details. For a mere so-called 'entomologist' this information is not needed, but those who take posts as teachers of 'agricultural entomology' are bound to comply with the requirements; and from the applications from both sides of the subject which come to my hands, owing to my own long connexion with crop insect prevention, I can say that I believe the matter is not receiving the attention it requires as sound, well-based, and kindly help to our agriculturists."

So far as the botanical features of the year are concerned, it may be mentioned that cereal crops were badly attacked by rust or mildew, *Puccinia graminis*, the spores of which broke

out profusely upon the stem and flag of wheat and other corn crops. Despite the full knowledge which we now possess of the life-history of this pest, we have not yet made much substantial progress in the direction of its suppression. Turnips and swedes have fallen victims on rather a large scale to the ravages of the fungus *Plasmodiophora Brassicæ*, which produces the malformation known as finger-and-toe. This disorder is undoubtedly more prevalent and less easily controlled in some localities than in others, and, in view of the serious loss, direct and indirect, which it occasions, it deserves to be made the subject of a searching investigation. Potato disease was, happily, not rife ; but it is worth noting that the same fungus, *Phytophthora infestans*, has caused injury to tomato plants. This, however, is not surprising when it is remembered that the potato and the tomato are members of the same natural order, and a fungus which attacks one solanaceous plant may reasonably be expected to invade the tissues of another. Ergot has not been unduly abundant, and though during the year the tendency of professional opinion has gone rather against the retention of the belief that it is actively injurious to gravid animals, yet *Claviceps purpurea* must continue to be regarded as a pest the suppression of which is demanded in the interests of good farming. As regards seeds there still comes into the market a small proportion of clovers containing dodder ; such samples are of foreign growth, and it is always sound economy to reject them. Grass seeds have, with few exceptions, shown high germinating power, and samples generally have been much cleaner, especially as regards living impurities, than was the case even as recently as three or four years ago. When there is a bad outbreak of rust upon corn crops it may be expected to extend to their botanical allies, the meadow grasses, and such was the case last summer. Cocksfoot grass, with its broad leaves and stout stems, was specially marked down as a victim, the plants being hopelessly disfigured and rendered

worthless as fodder. With regard to fertilizers, the past year has been favourable for the buyer, inasmuch as prices ruled very low and the supply was abundant. The large shipments of bones from India, of phosphates from America, and of nitrate of soda from the West Coast of South America reduced prices, and if our farmers have obtained low prices for their produce, one satisfactory point has been that their manure bill was smaller, and abundant and cheap manures will help to keep the cost of production at a lower level. For the coming season low prices will be probably maintained, except that of nitrate of soda, which rules from 20s. to 30s. higher than last season, because, by reduced production, supply is kept short, and if the consumption is at all large there may be a shortage of the fertilizers next spring.

During last spring some very high-class guano arrived from the new deposits in Peru, and this new guano is very highly spoken of. After an exhaustive examination, the Departmental Committee on Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs issued their report in the form of a voluminous blue-book, which gives very interesting information about the trade in fertilizers and feeding stuffs. We have already referred to the recommendations the committee make as to future legislation on the matter. They seem to recognize that both Mr. Channing's Bill and Mr. Chaplin's Bill do not meet the case, and that some more general legislation is required which leaves the burden of special regulations to the Board of Agriculture. Like the Royal Agricultural Society, the Board of Agriculture is a better authority when assisted by competent chemists to watch over the purity of fertilizers and feeding stuffs.

So far as the legislation of the year affects agriculture there is but little to say, as but few Acts have been passed which directly affect it. The Hares Preservation Act is the first that may be noted. This declares that hares, being an important article of food, have of late years decreased in numbers by reason of their being inconsiderately slaughtered,

and that it is important to provide for their protection during the breeding season, and it enacts that from the 1st of March to the last day of June it shall not be lawful to sell or expose for sale in any part of Great Britain any hare or leveret. This Act affects farmers in this way. Under the Ground Game Act of 1880 they have the right to kill hares all the year round, and up to the passing of this Act they could also sell them. Their right to kill hares all the year round is not affected by the Act, but during the close time named they cannot now be sold, under a penalty of 20s. for each offence. The Small Holdings Act is another enactment on which but little need be said. It empowers county councils to purchase or lease lands suitable for small holdings—*i.e.*, from one to 50 acres—which they may sell or let, subject to certain rights of the tenant to remove trees and buildings when he cannot get compensation. The matter scarcely affects the present race of farmers, and, until some effect of its action is seen, but little need be said about it. Perhaps the only really important measure affecting agriculture directly was the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, which may be said to have advanced legislation for the protection of our flocks and herds from foreign contagious diseases a step nearer perfection. Prior to 1890, the several Acts dealing with the matter were administered by the Privy Council; but these powers were by the Act of 1889, which created the Board of Agriculture, transferred to this latter body. In 1890 these powers were enlarged so far as pleuro-pneumonia was concerned, and powers were given which compelled all animals affected with this disease to be slaughtered, and giving power to the Board of Agriculture to slaughter all animals suspected of being affected, or that had been in contact with affected cattle. By the Act of last year these provisions are extended to foot-and-mouth disease as well, while funds are placed in the hands of the Board of Agriculture for the payment of compensation on a more rational scale than has

previously been the case. The success with which these powers have been exercised by the Board of Agriculture has led to an agitation for the inclusion also of swine fever in the list of diseases to be so dealt with. These are practically the only enactments of the year which directly affect the farmer. Two measures in which great interest was taken were, however, introduced into the House of Commons. One was a new Agricultural Holdings Act, and the other a measure for the prevention of adulteration of manures and feeding stuffs. These were both unfortunate, but the latter subject was investigated by a departmental committee of the Board of Agriculture, which has issued a valuable report, on which we may expect legislation in the near future.

The shows of the year were on the whole successful. The Royal Agricultural Society held its annual meeting in the beautiful Castle-park at Warwick, which was marked by fine weather and an excellent display of our national breeds of live stock. Every one will rejoice that the show showed a profit of £2,055, against £100 at Doncaster. One feature of this meeting is that it was the last at which Sir Jacob Wilson will act as honorary director, a post which he resigned in December, when the society presented him with a handsome service of plate and made him a life governor of the society. The Bath and West of England Society held a successful show at Swansea. The fat stock shows in the winter were chiefly notable for the excellent quality of the exhibits and the numerous successes of the Royal herds at Windsor. The champion at Smithfield was a cross-bred ox shown by Sir John Swinburne, which was sold for £100.

An event of the year which certainly deserves mention is that in December the Farmers' Club, which was founded on December 5, 1842, celebrated its jubilee, under the presidency of Mr. Clare S. Read. The secretary, Mr. S. B. L. Druce, read a paper giving a history of the club, and a dinner was held at which most of the other leading agricultural societies were represented.

The work of the Board of Agriculture has been steadily pursued on the lines of the two previous years, the only change of note being that with the new Government Mr. Herbert Gardner, M.P., has succeeded Mr. Chaplin, M.P., as President. Great regret is felt in agricultural circles, however, that this office is not now, as in the case of the late Government, of Cabinet rank.

As in the two previous years, the grant from the beer and spirit duties, &c. (about £700,000) has been continued to the county councils, and this has been devoted chiefly to technical and agricultural education. As yet, however, the work continues more or less chaotic, and no attempt seems to have been made to deal with this important question of agricultural education systematically for the whole country. What seems to be wanted is a sufficient staff of properly qualified teachers, such as are provided in France for the schools of the various departments.

The discussions and meetings of the year have been more than usually important, and there can be no doubt but that they have resulted in the country at large taking a greater interest in the difficulties and disasters of our agriculture than has ever before been the case. With the failure of the hay crop, the spoiling of the corn crops, and the ruinous prices for cattle and sheep, the cry of distress came from all parts of the country, and meetings were held to discuss the situation. Some of these resulted in tenant farmers' associations being formed, which formulated demands for relief from various burdens. The Lancaster Tenant Farmers' Association went further and asked the Central Chamber of Agriculture to convene a national conference for the purpose of calling attention to the state of agriculture. This was accordingly done, the result being that a two-days' conference was held in the St. James's-hall during the Smithfield week, which was attended by delegates from agricultural societies in all parts of the country, and was probably the largest and most representative meeting of agricul-

turists ever held in the metropolis. It was presided over by Mr. James Lowther, M.P., and the principal speech was made by Mr. Henry Chaplin, M.P. A large majority were in favour of protection, but the resolutions on this subject and on bimetallism (which was advocated by Mr. Chaplin) were far from unanimous. The practical result came from a proposal by the Earl of Winchilsea to form an agricultural union for Great Britain, composed of landowners, farmers, and labourers, to defend the interest of all dependent on the land. This is now being formed, and conferences in support of it will be held early in the year in all parts of England. In a manifesto to the labourers, Lord Winchilsea defines the objects of the union—on which the conference in London was unanimous—as follows :—

"(1) To reduce the unfair burdens upon land ; (2) to protect our flocks and herds (especially our pigs) against disease ; (3) to bring producer and consumer nearer together by co-operation, so that each of you could sell his eggs, chickens, and the produce of his garden and allotment for the best price, for ready money, and at his own door. Then we propose to label foreign and colonial meat, so that those who can afford to buy English meat may know that they get it, and those who want cheap foreign meat may no longer be charged the price of English meat for it."

The obituary of the year has been heavy, the first name to be mentioned being that of Sir James Caird, K.C.B., whose writings on agriculture made him the foremost authority on the subject, and who had been connected with the Royal Agricultural Society for over 40 years. So far as other names are concerned, those connected with the Royal Agricultural Society are all that need be mentioned. These include the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Sutherland, K.G., the Duke of Manchester, the Earl of Denbigh, the Earl of Leitrim, Viscount Hampden, G.C.B., Sir A. Acland Hood, Sir George Jenkinson, Mr. W. J. Beadel, M.P., Mr. R. S. Holford, Mr. James Smyth,

and Mr. Faunce de Laune. All of these were known either as good landlords or as men who took part in agricultural affairs. Mention may also be made of the Rev. J. Constable, who was for many years the principal of the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester.

LAW.

EVERY year makes some alteration in the constitution of our Courts by the death or retirement of Judges, and that which has just closed is no exception to the rule. An illustrious and almost unique personality has been lost to us by the death of Lord Bramwell, which occurred after a continuous public service of 36 years last May. Sir Henry Cotton, a consummate lawyer and admirable Judge, died on February 23. He had retired in 1890 from the Bench, on which he had succeeded Sir George Mellish in 1877; and Sir Charles Parker Butt, President of the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division, whose professional career had begun in the Consular Court at Constantinople, died in May after a long and painful illness. In the ranks of the profession there have passed away Mr. William Barber, Q.C., a Judge of County Courts, who for many years enjoyed a large practice at the Chancery Bar and was one of the best real property lawyers in Lincoln's-inn; Mr. Hunter Rodwell, Q.C., formerly member for Cambridgeshire, and once one of the leaders of the Parliamentary Bar; Mr. Crossley, Q.C., the greater part of whose considerable fortune was bequeathed to charitable purposes; Mr. Decimus Sturges; Mr. Sidney Woolf, Q.C.; Mr. Myburgh, Q.C., a well-known figure in Admiralty cases; Mr. Chaloner Chute, an accomplished scholar and Equity lawyer; Mr. E. K. Karslake, Q.C., brother of Sir John Karslake, whose quaint aspect and unfailing drollery used to enliven the dull

procedure of the old Courts of Chancery ; and in the closing days of the year Mr. Montagu Williams, Q.C., who had well earned for himself the title of the Poor Man's Magistrate.

The death of Sir Thomas Chambers at the close of last year and the retirement in the summer of Sir William Charley imposed on the City the grave responsibility of choosing lawyers who should worthily sit in the chairs once occupied by Russell Gurney and the first Lord Denman. The Recordership was, after protracted deliberation, conferred, to the great satisfaction of the profession and the public, upon Sir Charles Hall, son of the late Vice-Chancellor ; and the Common Serjeantcy was well bestowed on Mr. (now Sir) Forrest Fulton. Sir Francis Jeune, for the second time, succeeded Sir Charles Butt, who had been made President of his Division of the High Court on the elevation of Lord Hannen to the House of Lords ; and Mr. John Gorell Barnes, Q.C., was raised to the Bench. Early in June Sir Edward Fry, on the expiration of 15 years' judicial service, retired from the Bench, to which he had been appointed as an additional Chancery Judge in 1877, the first to whom the title of "Mr. Justice" was applied in substitution of the old title of Vice-Chancellor. Mr. Justice A. L. Smith succeeded Sir Edward Fry in the Court of Appeal, and the vacancy in the Queen's Bench Division thus created was, after a month's delay, filled up by the appointment of Mr. Gainsford Bruce, Q.C., who had just been returned for Holborn. The advent to power of a new Government replaced Lord Herschell on the woolsack and Sir C. Russell in his old post of Attorney-General. Mr. (now Sir) John Rigby, Q.C., a great Equity lawyer, was chosen Solicitor-General in place of Sir H. Davey, who failed to retain his seat at the General Election. At the beginning of the Michaelmas sittings the Hon. George Denman, once the colleague of Lord Palmerston in the representation of Tiverton, retired, after 20 years' service, and was succeeded by Mr. William Rann Kennedy, Q.C., an equally distinguished scholar and lawyer, who, like his predecessor, was Senior Classic at Cambridge. The House

of Lords was reinforced by the elevation to the peerage of Lord Shand, a former Scotch Judge, who has been an assiduous member of the Judicial Committee. As a Supreme Court of Appeal the House of Lords has numerically never been so strong as at the present moment; but in the presence of Equity lawyers it was probably never so weak, as the only former practitioners in Lincoln's-inn who are competent to sit are Lord Selborne, who has well earned immunity from judicial labour, and Lord Macnaghten. It is true that on one occasion Lord Hobhouse, once a Chancery barrister, sat to hear appeals. But it is many years since he practised, and he never held judicial office in England, and he does not seem to be considered ordinarily available for House of Lords appeals. A like disproportion also unfortunately exists in the Court of Appeal, where there are only two representatives of the Chancery Division—Lords Justices Lindley and Kay—as against four on the Common Law side.

The year has been fertile of additions to the bulky record of our case-law. This has been especially so in respect of the law affecting newspapers. In "Chamberlain v. Bennett," decided in January, it was held that the sub-editor of a daily paper, apart from special agreement, is entitled to six months' notice of dismissal. In the case of an editor, according to "Brennan v. Gilbart-Smith," the period must be 12 months, whereas a foreign correspondent by the decision of the Lord Chief Justice in "Lowe v. Walter," in which the plaintiff claimed 12 months, is only entitled to "reasonable" notice. Legal right and moral principle were alike vindicated by this journal in the matter of newspaper copyright in the action of "Walter v. Steinkopff," brought against the proprietor of the *St. James's Gazette*. Of libel actions the most noticeable are those brought against the proprietors of the *Daily Chronicle* and of the *Law Times*. The former related to the applications to the County Council for licences made by Messrs. Akkersdyk and Femenia, and the libel consisted, not in direct comments on the hearing of the applica-

tion, but in a criticism of an article in *The Times*, published some months after the appearance of the article. The jury marked their sense of the gratuitous character of the libel by the award of substantial damages. The second case related to an alleged abuse of the procedure of the Chancery Division in running up extortionate bills of costs to the ruin of small estates. The jury gave a farthing damages, but a new trial has since been ordered. A crop of cases of contempt of Court arose out of the general election, and the absurd extent to which that exceptional jurisdiction may be invoked was illustrated in the unsuccessful proceedings taken against *The Times*, the *Standard*, and the *Morning Post*, for publishing a couple of letters which had already appeared in a local newspaper, with respect to the Montgomery election. An instance, however, of the rightful exercise of the jurisdiction was afforded in the case of Dr. Barnardo, who was fined £25 for publishing an abusive and defamatory article on his opponent in the protracted litigation which is still pending with regard to the religious education of the boy Harry Gossage.

In the House of Lords several appeals have been decided which involve principles of farreaching consequence. In the "Ooregum Gold Mining Company of India v. Roper" it was held, in conformity with the general opinion, that a company limited by shares has no power to issue shares at a discount. It was, however, at the same time carefully pointed out by Lord Herschell and Lord Watson that it is competent to issue shares for less than their nominal value, under a contract that the amount unpaid shall only be called up if it should be necessary to do so in order to pay creditors. In the appeal of the "London Joint Stock Bank v. Simmons" the rights of bankers and others holding negotiable securities or securities payable to "bearer" as cover for advances made to customers, rights which were involved in considerable doubt and confusion by the previous decision of their Lordships in Lord Sheffield's case (13 Ap. Ca. 333, 57 *Law J.*, Chanc. 986), by which the Court of Appeal

and Mr. Justice Kekewich naturally considered themselves bound, were satisfactorily elucidated. It may now be taken as settled law that the *bonâ fide* holder for value of negotiable securities acquires a good title thereto, notwithstanding the fraud or absence of title of the person from whom he received them. Their Lordships reserved judgment in the early part of last year in the case of "Barnardo v. Ford," with a view to make up their minds whether there is an appeal from an order directing the issue of a writ of *habeas corpus*. After 15 months' deliberation it was held that there is such an appeal; but inasmuch as Dr. Barnardo had an opportunity given him of making a new return to the writ, the result of three years' litigation is that the proceedings have a new start. The delay was the less excusable inasmuch as the House had a year before decided "that an appeal lies from an order of the Queen's Bench Division directing the issue of a writ of *habeas corpus* to bring before the Court an infant in order to determine who is to have the custody of and control over such infant." ("Barnardo v. M'Hugh," App. Ca. 1891, p. 388.) As the substantial question was in what religion a boy who was ten or eleven when the writ was applied for was to be brought up, it appears probable that the boy will be of an age to settle the question for himself before the Courts have done with the matter. Lord Coleridge, in the motion for contempt against Dr. Barnardo above referred to, expressed a difficulty in reconciling the decision in "Barnardo v. Ford" with their Lordships' previous judgments in "Bell-Cox v. Hakes."

During the last sittings of the House, which began on November 10—a fortnight earlier than in 1891—almost all arrears have been cleared off, and in only one or two cases is judgment still reserved. A question of succession duty payable on the famous Hamilton collection was decided in favour of the Crown, in "The Duke of Hamilton v. Lord Advocate," and in "Hicks v. Raymond and Reid" a principle was laid down which Lord Watson observed was as old as the law of contract

itself, but had, oddly enough, never hitherto been the subject of legal decision in our Courts. The question was, whether the respondents, who were consignees of a cargo, were liable to the appellants in damages for delay in unloading caused by the strike of dock labourers in August and September, 1889. Mr. Justice Mathew held that they were liable, but the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords, applying the doctrine that *vis major* exonerates from the consequences of non-fulfilment of contract, came to the opposite conclusion.

Scarcely a year passes without the Courts being called upon to sanction the sale of some historic estate or the dispersion of some famous collection. In the course of 1892 the House of Lords has formally sanctioned Lord Iveagh's purchase from Lord Ailesbury of the famous forest and estate of Savernake. The late Duke of Marlborough obtained from Mr. Justice Chitty a declaration that he had power, as tenant for life under the Settled Land Acts, to sell the "Parliamentary" estate of Blenheim, including the mansion house, park, and grounds. The Duke, however, disclaimed any present purpose of doing so.

The Privy Council affirmed the decision of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Bishop of Lincoln's case, and have had several important questions of colonial law brought before them, on one of which, relating to the powers of the Governor and Chief Justice of the Bahamas, they have reserved judgment. An abortive and, apparently, unprecedented appeal was made to the Committee on behalf of the murderer Deeming, which was peremptorily refused. The Committee also held in "Buckley (Attorney-General of New Zealand) v. Edwards" that the Governor of that colony has no power to add to the number of Judges of the Supreme Court without express Parliamentary sanction. The incapacity of a Roman Catholic to nominate to a living in the Church of England was affirmed in the case of "Boyer (Clerk) v. Bishop of Norwich."

Some questions of election law have been raised during the recent petitions, with respect to which we have already com-

mented as to the want of harmony existing between the several Judges who have pronounced upon them. Other decisions of considerable importance have been given during the year. Lord Bute was exonerated from liability for the losses sustained by the Cardiff Savings Bank, of which he was the nominal president. "Lauri v. Renad" decided that section 6 of the International Copyright Act, 1886, does not operate to revive expired copyright. "Micklethwaite v. Vincent" affirmed the public's right of way over Hickling Broad, but denied their right of fishing or shooting. In "Carlill v. The Carbolic Smoke Ball Company" the old law was reaffirmed and amusingly illustrated that a binding contract may be entered into by advertisement. It will be remembered that the plaintiff recovered the £100 promised by the defendants to any person who should contract the influenza after using their remedy in the prescribed manner. The London County Council enforced against Messrs. Carwardine compliance with the Sky-Signs Act, 1891, and obtained a judicial definition of what constitutes a sky-sign. One of the most important and interesting decisions of the year is that of the Court of Appeal in the "Maxim-Nordenfelt Company v. Nordenfelt," in which was enforced a covenant not restricted in area and extending over the long period of 25 years, that the defendant would not carry on a business competing with the plaintiffs' business. It would have required the courage of a Jessel to insist, as a Judge of First Instance, upon such a covenant, and it is not surprising that Mr. Justice Romer did not feel justified in going so far beyond the majority of the decisions on the subject. Few, however, will dispute the fairness of the conclusion at which the Lords Justices arrived. The judgments of Sir N. Lindley and Sir C. Bowen are masterly expositions both of the law itself and its development and adaptation to the wants of a progressive society.

The Special Council of Judges met in January, and their report was printed in full in *The Times* in August. Criticisms and suggestions have been lavished on the scheme, which was sub-

jected in *The Times* to the searching analysis of "A Member of the Bench." The Bar Committee and the Incorporated Law Society have examined and reported upon the Judges' recommendations, and their views have been published in *The Times*. Eminent members of both branches of the profession have also addressed us on the subject. But the various critics are by no means unanimous. The only point on which almost all are agreed is that there ought to be a new Judge in the Chancery Division. It is satisfactory to observe that an increase of judicial power has been effected in one direction. Lord Herschell, in virtue of the little Act passed by his predecessor in 1891, has several times sat as ex-Lord Chancellor in the Court of Appeal, and Lord Halsbury also in the Cathcart lunacy case presided over that Court. The City of London, whose apparent distrust and dislike of a resort to law for the settlement of disputes has long troubled the legal mind, has successfully launched a Court of Arbitration of its own, which shall settle differences at a small expense with the least possible delay and the fewest possible formalities. One case has already been decided in the new chamber which from start to close only occupied ten days. But, as was shown in a letter to *The Times*, an Admiralty action can be disposed of almost as speedily, and it is suggested that valuable reform can be attained by the assimilation in some respects of the practice in other divisions to that of Admiralty cases. The Judges' proposals and the counter-proposals of others will no doubt soon be submitted to the Government and the Legislature; but the profession and the public may reasonably, mindful of the results of the Judicature Acts, prefer modest instalments of reform, such as Mr. Finlay's Act, to ambitious but probably illusory attempts at administrative perfection.

RAILWAYS.

THE dissolution of Parliament in June last not only interrupted a good deal of unfinished railway legislation, but also put an end for the time being to the scheme of the Government for permanently relieving Parliament of its control of Scotch and Irish private Bill legislation. Whatever may be the opinion held by those who have practical experience of the subject as to local delegation of inquiries into gas, water, and police Bills, as far as railways are concerned all classes of experts—suitors, agents, and counsel—are practically unanimous in deprecating the proposed innovation. Of the private Bills that reached a conclusion before the dissolution, two of the most important were the Bill for transferring the Southampton Docks to the London and South-Western, which passed, and that for transferring the Hull Docks to the North-Eastern, which was thrown out by the Second House. The extension of a railway to the Undercliff at Ventnor was sanctioned, not without opposition, and so was an extension under Epsom Downs, when stringent clauses for the protection of the Derby course from interference had been accepted by the promoters. The two most important companies incorporated in 1891—the Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast, and the Central London—each came for an amendment Bill, and got it unopposed. The latter company secured thereby a most valuable extension from its original terminus opposite the Bank to a new terminus underneath Liverpool-

street Station. Another practically unopposed Bill was not without interest, that, namely, by which the North British voluntarily conceded to the Caledonian Company the access to Loch Lomond, which, after weeks of hard fighting and tens of thousandsof pounds of Parliamentary costs, it had succeeded in keeping from it in the Sessions of 1890 and 1891. A Bill promoted by the London, Chatham, and Dover authorized that company to collect a poll-tax of one shilling on every passenger landing and embarking at Dover, to be expended on the improvement of that port. A Bill which authorized the construction of a new coal-line in South Yorkshire—the Rotherham, Blyth, and Sutton—possesses more importance than on its face seems to belong to it, in the fact that Sir Henry Oakley, general manager of the Great Northern, gave evidence in support of it, avowedly on the ground that by the new line he would have access to the system of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company, independently of his existing access over the lines of his late ally, the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire. A second batch of Railway Rates Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, 26 in number in all, was passed by the Duke of Richmond's Committee, the bulk of them almost unopposed, though those dealing with South Wales, with West Cumberland, and with Scotland met with considerable opposition, now from the traders, and now from the railway companies themselves.

Though the Epsom Downs Extension Bill succeeded in safely rounding Tattenham Corner, Lord's Cricket Ground looked at one time as though it would be fatal to the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire's extension to London. In the end, however, this most formidable opposition was bought off on terms whose magnificence almost recalls the sums paid to the great territorial magnates by the railways of 50 years back—terms which, it must not be forgotten, will add quite appreciably to the cost of the new line, and so to the fares and rates which will need to be charged on it—and the Sheffield Bill was passed by committees of both Houses. It still, however, awaits the formal stage of

Royal assent. Another group of London Bills, those for the various underground electric lines, are also in this same state of suspended animation. These Bills, of which there were, in all, six, were in March last referred to a joint committee presided over by Mr. Stansfeld, on which science was represented by Lord Kelvin and Parliamentary drafting by Lord Thring. This committee reported strongly in favour of what may be called the Greathead system of tunnel construction—of electric traction under ordinary circumstances and of cable traction on exceptionally steep gradients. It further expressed the opinion that all the schemes were satisfactory regarded as instalments of the yet larger schemes required by the urgent necessities of London traffic, and recommended that they should all be sent forward to ordinary private Bill committee in the usual fashion. The six schemes which were accordingly set down for committee may be roughly described as follows:—Two of them, the Central London Extension to Liverpool-street (already mentioned) and the South London Extension to Islington, were for the continuation of the lines of existing companies. Two more, the Waterloo and City and the Great Northern and City, were intended, as their name implies, to afford access to the City for the passengers using the Great Northern and South-Western systems respectively. The two remaining lines were intended for cross-metropolitan communication—the Baker-street and Waterloo and the Charing-cross and Hampstead. The Charing-cross and Hampstead is the only one of the six lines not intended to be worked by electricity. It will have a branch running off at the top of Tottenham-court-road to serve the great termini of Euston, St. Pancras, and King's-cross. The Great Northern and City is different from the rest, in that it proposes to effect an actual junction with the Great Northern main line and to construct its tunnels large enough to permit of the passage of ordinary rolling-stock. This last company's Bill, like that of the Central London Company, was just in time to receive before the dissolution the

Royal assent. The other four Bills are still in various stages of arrested development.

Alongside of the numerous committees of Parliament which sat in the ordinary manner to consider the various private Bills brought in, there was sitting for a large part of the Session a Select Committee of the House of Commons, with Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, late President of the Board of Trade, in the chair, on Railway Servants' Hours of Labour. The committee found unquestionably a good deal of unnecessary and improper overwork, but found also that this overwork was very much less general and very much less in amount than had been the case a few years before. Had it pushed its inquiries further, it would, however, have found that in the United States of America and in Holland—the two countries of the world whose railway system has most in common with our own—hours of work far in excess of anything known here seem to have been acquiesced in uncomplainingly both by the workmen themselves and by the public at large. One of the points brought out most clearly by the committee's investigation was the extreme difference, in the matter of excessive hours, between one company and another apparently occupying a practically similar position—a difference due, it seems, merely to the greater or less amount of common-sense and reasonable forethought devoted to the compilation of the time-tables and to the supervision of the traffic—though it must be confessed that a contemporaneous report by Major Marindin, one of the inspecting officers of the Board of Trade, on an accident which occurred on the Midland and South-Western Junction Railway, also called attention to the much greater difficulty in the way of reform when the company concerned is small and in financial low water. Public attention was more especially directed to the proceedings of this committee because of the alleged attempts at intimidation of witnesses who gave evidence before it. The dismissal of Mr. Hood, a stationmaster on the Cambrian Railways, resulted not only in the directors and ex-general manager of that company

appearing at the bar of the House of Commons to be reproved by Mr. Speaker, but also in the passage of the Witnesses (Public Inquiries) Protection Act. On the other hand, the committee did not think it necessary to follow up a case of apparent intimidation of railway workmen by their fellow-workmen. The upshot of the committee's deliberations may be said to be this. It is impossible to fix a *maximum* railway day by Act of Parliament. The companies ought to be left with the responsibility of managing their own business and organizing their own staff. At the same time, the Board of Trade should have the power to call for returns of the hours the men are actually working, and have authority, in cases of gross abuse, to step in, supersede the directors, and prescribe an amended schedule of hours, to be enforced, if necessary, under heavy penalty by order of the Railway Commissioners. Legislation in this sense is likely to be passed with the consent of both parties in the ensuing Session. Besides this House of Commons committee, the Labour Commission has also taken a good deal of evidence as to the position of railway servants. The London and South-Western Company has taken steps by which an adequate superannuation allowance is secured to practically the whole of its *employés*. One other labour question should not pass unnoticed—the great strike of the Durham colliers in the spring of the year, which cost the North-Eastern Company about half-a-million sterling, and the Furness and the Maryport and Carlisle Companies, whose iron-works are dependent almost entirely on Durham coke, sums of relatively equal importance.

Passing from Parliament to the Law Courts, we may note that the Caledonian Railway Company has been able, with the assistance of the Court of Appeal, to obtain guidance for the lawyers of the future on two very abstruse points—first, whether a Scotch corporation with a station and several miles of line in England has such a domicile here as to render it subject to the jurisdiction of the English Courts ; and secondly,

the basis on which the value of the lord's right to fines and heriots is to be estimated when copyhold land is enfranchised compulsorily under the powers of the Lands Clauses Acts. A case, in which the Metropolitan Company was concerned, has decided that, though a tunnel may be called merely an easement, it is yet land for the purpose of being subject to land-tax. The Tottenham and Forest Gate, a new line which is being constructed in order to afford the Midland better access to the East-end of London, has also obtained two interesting decisions. The one settles authoritatively the meaning to be attached to the words "delineated on the plans" which are to be found in every Special Act for the construction of a line; the other enforces once more the old lesson that when two alternative methods of construction are possible, Parliament will not be assumed to have had any leaning whatever to one of them because it would be much more convenient and economical to the railway company. The case of the Ruabon Terra Cotta Company has recently decided what has long been the accepted view of the profession, that the fact that the railway would be utterly destroyed by so doing is no reason why a mine-owner should refrain from working his mines from the surface. Another point is not without interest. Supposing a railway company refuses to purchase minerals and the mine-owner accordingly works so as to destroy the line, can the Railway Commission order the purchase of the minerals and the restoration of the line as a traffic facility under Cardwell's Act? Of more general interest than these legal subtleties were the two cases of "Löwenfeld v. the Great Western" and "Cooke v. the Midland." Both of them were concerned with the obligations of railway companies to observe the conditions of their published time-tables. In the interval between the passage of the new Rates Acts and their coming into actual operation, the Railway Commission has naturally had little enough to do. But it has decided two cases—"Pickering Phipps v. the North-Western" and "Liver-

pool Corn Trade Association v. the Great Western"—of the utmost importance, and in each case its decision has been upheld by the Court of Appeal. The masterly judgment of Mr. Justice Wills in the last-mentioned case is one of a kind unfortunately but rare in English railway jurisprudence. One other case before the Commission, dealing with the interchange of traffic between the Brighton and South-Western Companies at Midhurst Station, deserves mention, not for its intrinsic importance, but as being the first instance in which a county council has availed itself of the power conferred on it—at the instance, it is believed, of the late Lord Iddesleigh—by the Railway and Canal Traffic Act of 1885 to appear as plaintiff without being obliged to show that it is in any way aggrieved.

Railway construction has been active in the year 1892. The city of Glasgow has been honeycombed in all directions by the tunnels of the Glasgow Central Railway and of the Glasgow Subway Companies, and the principal streets have been at times almost impassable in consequence. In Edinburgh the new Princes-street station of the Caledonian is almost finished, while the North British is rapidly widening its lines through the adjacent gardens, having acquired the ground for the purpose after an exhaustive inquiry before Lord Shand, as arbiter, in which the company offered for two acres of land £15,000, the Corporation claimed £150,000, and the award was finally for £26,000. The Sheffield Company has extended southwards as far as Chesterfield, and is on the point of opening to Annesley, whence it will run a service of trains over the Great Northern line into Nottingham. Meanwhile, the Metropolitan, by the completion of its extension from Chalfont to Aylesbury, and by the absorption of the poor little bankrupt Aylesbury and Buckingham, has got full 50 miles out north from London to meet the Sheffield. In North Wales, too, and its neighbourhood Sir Edward Watkin's star is in the ascendant. The connexion of the Mersey Tunnel Railway with the Central Station of the Cheshire Lines in Liverpool is already complete,

The first sod of the line across the Wirral peninsula to join the Mersey tunnel with the Dee bridge was cut by Mr. Gladstone in July last; the construction of the Wrexham and Ellesmere Railway, the only other gap in the Welsh Union route from Cardiff to Liverpool, is being rapidly pushed on. The mention of the name of Sir Edward Watkin naturally recalls the fantastic suggestion, made by him in *The Times* last summer, to solve the Irish problem by the construction of a ship canal from Dublin to Galway, and a submarine tunnel from a remote corner of Galloway, or, as he afterwards suggested, from the Mull of Cantyre, to the coast of Ulster. How the railway was to get from Campbeltown to Glasgow, whether it was to go 150 miles round by Inverary, or to bridge the Kyles of Bute, Loch Long, and the Holy Loch with a series of new Forth bridges, Sir Edward did not think it necessary to explain. Matter of more serious importance was the commencement, in June last, of the construction of the Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway—the new line which is to afford the Midland coalfield direct access to the sea on both sides of the country. The Great Western, which has finally abolished the broad gauge, has been spending vast sums on doubling its lines in Devon and Cornwall, and quadrupling the main line between Maidenhead and Didcot. The Midland has been engaged on the same task at many points between St. Pancras and Kettering and at Derby, as well as further north. The Great Northern is once more widening outside King's-cross. The six lines of the South-Western from Waterloo to Clapham have been at length completed, and the A signal-box at Waterloo can now probably boast itself the largest and most perfect in the world. The six lines into Liverpool-street are also practically finished, and Liverpool-street Station itself is nearly completed. When that is done the Great Eastern will be able to claim a passenger terminus unexampled for convenience, both of the railway officials and the public, while Waterloo, alas! seems destined to remain to all time a mighty maze without a plan,

The first serious accident of the year, that in which would-be passengers were crushed to death at a narrow gate at Hampstead Station on Easter Monday, might no doubt have happened equally well at a theatre or a race-meeting. But there were not a few train accidents properly so-called. One at Clapham Junction, due to the mistake of an engine-driver, must have had terrible consequences had the train with which he collided not been fortunately empty; another at Bishopsgate, due to the mistake of a signalman, caused distressing injury to a number of workmen. More than one accident in different parts of the country has called attention to the very serious risk attending the lax employment of that most useful and necessary signal known as "Section clear, but station (junction) blocked." The disaster at Thirsk to the East Coast Scotch express must be fresh in every reader's memory. Whatever its lesson may be, at least the sudden collapse of a signalman who had been on duty only six hours is no argument for the adoption of an eight hours day.

The Board of Trade, in its desire to prevent accidents, is practically driving into bankruptcy not a few of the small struggling companies by the extent of its demands under the Railways Regulation Act, 1889, and has already brought the independent promotion of agricultural lines in thinly populated districts to an abrupt end. In one particular point—that, namely, of "mixed" trains, a point on which it is a tolerably open secret that the Department itself has overruled the advice of its own expert officials—the Board of Trade is coming into sharp conflict with local public opinion. The Montgomeryshire County Council has unanimously protested against the curtailment of their accustomed facilities, while the outcry in the district served by the Callander and Oban line has been so loud that the permission for the running of one "mixed" train each way daily has been extorted from Whitehall.

The heightened demands of the Board of Trade may ac-

count in some degree for the disappointing "decelerations" —a new word hitherto never needed in English railway practice—of the Great Western service in Devon and Cornwall and on the Weymouth branch. No such excuse can, however, be offered for the allowance of extra time between Birmingham and Shrewsbury, a change all the more surprising seeing that the Great Western improvement to Shrewsbury in the summer of 1891 had been effective enough to force the rival North-Western to make their morning connexion from Euston to Shrewsbury and the Cambrian system, not by means of the jog-trot 9 a.m. (which is run for the Irish passengers, of whom the North-Western has a monopoly), but by means of the flying 10 30 "Scot," which serves a traffic every ounce of which is keenly competed for by the East Coast lines. It would have seemed natural to mention the Midland as one of the Scotch competitors of the North-Western, but the fact is that the Midland—which in the course of the past year has lost in Sir James Allport the greatest man it ever had—seems nowadays to regard competition as an exploded fallacy, and to be content, as far at least as passenger traffic is concerned, to leave the game to its rivals. The Midland has made sweeping changes in its time-tables, but they are all in one direction. Between London and Scotland, and the Lakes, and Leeds, and Manchester, also between Scotland and Bristol, in each case the service is markedly inferior to what it was, partly through the withdrawal of trains, partly owing to longer time being allowed to the trains which still remain. The Midland did, indeed, put on, not before it was wanted, a very respectable Sunday express between London and Leeds and Bradford, but it was promptly over-trumped by the Great Northern with a much better one. The South-Eastern has an excellent service of new expresses to Chatham, some of them—thanks, apparently, to a suggestion of *The Times*—having now also a Maidstone connexion. The Great Southern and Great Northern of Ireland have both improved their services, while the energy of the

Belfast and Northern Counties line has done wonders for the cross-Channel route, *vid* Larne and Stranraer.

Among matters of railway finance may be enumerated the adoption by the different railways of the Forged Transfers Acts, though the adoption has, unfortunately, in the case of the companies which have followed the North-Western and Great-Western lead, been hedged round by a series of conditions apparently intended to secure the *minimum* amount of advantage to the companies, conjoined with the *maximum* of annoyance to the individual shareholders. The 25 years' truce between the North British and Caledonian has already lasted more than half that number of months, and no signs of rupture are as yet visible to outside observers. But then trade is very depressed in Scotland. The fact of the Caledonian-North British treaty formed a basis on which the Glasgow Stock Exchange in July last erected the elaborate but (as it turned out afterwards) wholly imaginative superstructure of a Midland and Glasgow and South-Western amalgamation scheme. Another amalgamation scheme, that of the Chatham and South-Eastern companies, is, at least, of a more real nature. That the Chatham Company is in a weak financial position is as undeniable as that the starvation policy persisted in for a quarter of a century by the South-Eastern chairman has brought nearly to death's door the goose that lays the golden eggs for his shareholders. From the public point of view no objection whatever can be offered to the proposal, to come before Parliament next Session, that the Midland and Great Northern Railways shall jointly take over the Eastern and Midlands, so administering to the Great Eastern—a company which, it must be confessed, needs it less than almost any railway in the country—an additional dose of the health-giving tonic of competition.

Among miscellaneous matters of interest may be mentioned the following :—Second-class is rapidly dying out ; the Great Eastern and the London, Tilbury, and Southend have recently announced their intention of running only

two classes in future, except that on suburban trains, so it may now be roughly said that second-class is a thing of the past on almost half the railway mileage of Great Britain. Third-class, on the other hand, has conquered for itself admission to one more train, the day mail, namely, between London and Calais. The Brighton Company alone persists in, to use the expression of its chairman, "pursuing a liberal policy" and excluding—the phrase is again Mr. Laing's—"our good friend the third-class passenger," and often the second-class passenger as well, from all the best expresses on the line, which, as the definition of a Brighton express may nowadays be said to be "a train which has a new stop put into it every three months, and seldom rises to a speed exceeding 35 miles an hour," is perhaps not so very serious a deprivation after all. The mention of Paris reminds us that since ordinary first-class carriages have been attached to the club train between Paris and Calais the *minimum* fare by this service is about 1¾d. per mile in France, as against about 4¾d. between London and Dover. Whether the English fare is legal or not is a question which the late President of the Board of Trade, when interrogated last Session in the House by Mr. Leveson-Gower, professed himself unable and apparently unwilling to answer. The South-Eastern has imported an American train of drawing-cars; the Great Western has built itself a train on the corridor principle, and has commenced running a sleeping car on the mail between London and Milford. The great success of the dining-cars on the west coast afternoon expresses between London and Scotland has roused the east coast companies to imitation, but in this case (if report speaks true) there are to be dining-cars for third as well as first class passengers. Various companies are experimenting with systems of carriage heating to replace the ridiculously inadequate hot-water tins.

The Brighton Company, after experimenting for some eight years with the electric light, has announced its intention of lighting its carriages with gas. Meanwhile its passengers con-

tinue to travel in darkness. Following the lead of the South-Western, a company whose rise in public estimation of late may be gauged by the fact that its stock is now quoted in the market above that of the North-Western, the railways have undertaken to find employment for about 2,000 men of the Army Reserve per annum. The same company has also taken the lead, though we regret to see it does not yet seem to have been generally followed by the other companies, in the abolition of the very serious "woman's grievance" to which attention was called by a correspondence in *The Times* last summer. Several companies have made a valuable concession to their staff by the issue to them and their families of what are known as "privilege" tickets at fares of less than a farthing a mile. The North-Eastern has made a somewhat similar concession to the public by permitting break of journey with all ordinary tickets on conditions similar to those ordinarily in force on the Continent. On the other hand, the free passes hitherto granted to drovers in charge of stock are henceforward withdrawn.

In the present year the railway companies will be able, in all probability, to procure their coal and other material at lower prices than in the year just ended. And this is fortunate, for the demands of their *employés* and of the public are steadily rising, and the prospect therefore for the shareholders' dividends is none too good. That those who are responsible for the management of our railways are frightened at the prospect before them is increasingly evident both from the retrenchments and agreements, and also from the tone which they have recently adopted. There is plenty of room, however, for improvements and economies in English railway management at the present moment which can be effected without curtailing one whit the public accommodation, and the present generation of railway men will be false to all our English traditions if they fail to rise to the height of the occasion.

PATENTS.

THE record of applications for patents in the United Kingdom during the past year shows that the progress of invention, noted annually since 1883, still continues. The number of applications in 1892 was 24,166, a total far exceeding that of any previous year, and greater by 1,278 than that of 1891. It is evident that inventive energy is in no danger of decay, and there is no indication that a *maximum* in the number of a year's applications has been reached. It is nevertheless interesting to remark that a comparison of the condition of invention in this country with that obtaining in the United States of America shows greatly to our disadvantage, at least as regards numbers. In the great Western Republic, under circumstances which, it must be admitted, are more advantageous to the inventor, the annual number of applications for patents is about 40,000. Such a large total will probably not be reached here for a long time, although the constant advance is large enough to prove the existence of healthy enterprise among inventors in this country.

The chief event of the past year in connexion with patent work was, undoubtedly, the reduction granted by the Board of Trade in the sums payable for the renewal of patents. The change was announced by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget speech. On that occasion Mr. Goschen said :—

"The President of the Board of Trade has informed the House of his wish to reduce the heavy fees charged on the renewal of

patents, in the interests of the poorer patentees and with the view of giving the fullest scope to the development of inventions. Small as my margin is, this is a reform which the Government do not wish to delay, and which they think they can afford. The primary fee of £4 for the first four years will remain, and from the end of the fourth year onward large reductions will take place. At present the fees for the next four years are £10 a year ; they will be reduced to £5, £6, £7, and £8 in these four years. In the fifth and sixth years the present fees are £15 ; and they will be reduced to £9 and £10. In the next four years, the last before the patent expires, they are £20 at present ; and they will be £11, £12, £13, and £14. These reductions will, I believe, be viewed with satisfaction by a very large class. They will ultimately involve a loss of £50,000 for a full year ; but we should not ask for the new scale to come into operation before September 30.''

The effect of this arrangement has been to reduce the total cost of a patent, which is kept in force for the *maximum* period of 14 years, from £154 to £99, a saving to the patentee of about 36 per cent. on the previously existing fees. The reduction had long been desired. Indeed, as soon as it became known that the Patent Office was making a substantial revenue, a change of the kind was agitated for by inventors, and, although an even greater diminution in the charges had been hoped for, the concession has been received with much satisfaction. The patent system obviously has for its object not only the protection of inventors, but also the stimulation of invention, and can only have full practical effect when the fees have been made such as not to check the enterprise of the poorer class of inventors. The reform in question is an important step towards this end ; and there is every probability that it will result in considerably increasing the number of patents renewed. This may be inferred from the fact that in 1884—the first year in which the Act that greatly reduced the initial fees was in operation—the number of applications for patents rose

suddenly from 5,993 to 17,110. At the same time it is noteworthy that the increase of applications to 24,166 in the year just closed has not compensated for the loss of revenue entailed by that reduction, although, at the present rate of progression, the time cannot be far distant when the deficiency will be overtaken. This experience is no doubt applicable, in a measure, to the question of renewal fees.

But notwithstanding the diminution of income, be it temporary or otherwise, the Patent Office will still have a very substantial surplus to dispose of. The business of the year 1891 resulted in an excess of receipts over expenditure of £100,339. As already remarked, there is no indication of inventive enterprise declining. But, even assuming that it should remain stationary, the handsome profit of £50,000 would remain after deducting the cost of lowering the renewal fees as estimated by Mr. Goschen.

The question of utilizing the surplus is always an important one. It has been before remarked, and is, indeed, by some considered axiomatic, that income derived from inventions should be applied for the benefit of inventors only, and that it should not be treated as an item of general revenue. That the authorities recognize this is shown by the adoption of steps to provide better facilities for those who have to transact business with the Patent Office. A sum of upwards of £21,000 for the rebuilding of the office was taken in the estimates for the year 1891-92, and the works have been some time in progress. At the close of 1891 little had transpired as to the intentions of the Government with regard to this matter, but a general idea of what is to be done can now be given. The whole of the existing building, which is at once undersized and inconvenient, will disappear, and will be replaced by a structure providing far superior accommodation. It will comprise three adjacent blocks, one of which is already erected and only awaits internal fittings for its completion. It has a small frontage in Took's-court, but is mainly surrounded by other buildings. It

contains, amongst other apartments, a court for the hearing by the Comptroller of opposition and other cases. These are now taken at the Law Courts, where any court that may happen to be vacant at the time is allotted for the purpose—an arrangement leading to much inconvenience and confusion. The two blocks yet to be built will, however, form the main part of the office, though when their erection will be begun is not yet known. Several houses have been already demolished, including the former offices of the *Athenæum* and *Notes and Queries*. The removal of the Patent Office library to the ground floor and of the sales branch from its separate site in Cursitor-street to a place within the main building are among the improvements that have been decided upon. The growing appreciation of the library affords proof, if proof were needed, that those availing themselves of its privileges are entitled to better accommodation than that which they now find after tediously climbing to the top of a high building. The library was opened in March, 1855, and, during the remaining nine months of that year, was patronized by 2,500 persons. In the next year there were 4,643 readers, and the numbers have since increased steadily year by year, with only three exceptions. The passing of the Act of 1883 was the means of sending the figures from 32,745 in that year to 39,508 in 1884, and the annual advance since then has been very great. During last year no fewer than 103,034 persons made use of the library. The public entrance to the completed building will be, as at present, from Southampton-buildings.

There are other directions in which the surplus before referred to may be profitably employed. Too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity for satisfactory indexes and abridgments of specifications, so that an inventor may have the opportunity of convincing himself in the speediest and least laborious manner as to the novelty of his invention. It is a fact, often commented upon, that these indispensable aids are not now in a condition to meet requirements, one of the main defects being a want of uni-

formity in the system of their compilation. For example, the indexes to specifications of the years 1884 and 1885 are constructed on one principle—the merits or demerits of which need not be here discussed—while those to specifications of later date are based on a method totally different. So that there is no continuity, and, until some improvement is effected, the public must suffer. In this connexion it may be mentioned that the publication of the indexes and abridgments of specifications of the years 1877-83 will probably take place at no distant date. It is understood that they are already in the press. The abridgments will be illustrated, and the indexes will be on the same plan as the now familiar "Subject-Matter Index," which is issued by the office every month. With regard to the latter, there is reason to believe that it will in future be issued without the cross references which have hitherto been a feature of its pages, and that these will be consolidated in a separate reference index, which will form a kind of continuous guide to the current index. The advantages would be a reduction in the bulk and cost of the monthly indexes, against which would have to be set the extra labour which those not thoroughly conversant with the system would have to bestow upon searches, owing to the fact that reference to two volumes would be constantly necessitated.

There is yet a third reform, the introduction of which would make a claim upon the surplus. There appears to be a growing feeling in favour of the adoption, at any rate in some form, of the system prevailing in the United States of examining into the novelty of inventions for the protection of which patents are sought. No criticism is more frequently made upon the English patent law than that it does not provide for any inquiry as to whether an invention is new. If the law were amended in this particular the search which must now be undertaken by the patentee—often at a considerable expense—would be performed by the Patent Office without any cost or trouble on the part of the inventor. The matter has to be looked at in more than one aspect. Prior publication of any kind—as, for instance, in

scientific works or the proceedings of learned societies—is sufficient to invalidate a patent, and it would, no doubt, be extremely difficult in practice to do more than investigate the specifications of previous inventions for the purpose. But even this would entail an exhaustive search of documents dating back to the year 1617, and the utility of such an inquiry, compared with the expense involved in making it, may be very much open to question. There would, however, seem to be no reason why a search limited to the previous 14 years—so as to cover all patents in force at the time—should not be introduced. This system need not involve the refusal of a patent on account of want of novelty in an invention, but the information obtainable under it would be of the greatest value to the patentee, chiefly because it would put him on his guard against infringing an existing patent. The carrying out of such a plan would necessarily involve a considerable annual outlay, though there is no reason for assuming that it would be a greater one than the surplus would amply provide for, even after allowing for the estimated diminution of £50,000 on account of the reduction of renewal fees.

The establishment of a uniform price for specifications of patents has been another incident of the past year. Previously specifications differed widely in price, ranging from 2d. to several shillings, according to their bulk and the number and complexity of their explanatory illustrations. The price of each one now is 8d., and it may be useful to mention that, besides being purchasable at the Sale Branch in Cursitor-street, any specification may be obtained through the post by means of a special form, known as "Patents' Form, Cl.," which may be bought for the above sum at the General Post Office, half a dozen other principal post offices in the metropolis, and a large number of provincial offices. The form thus purchased, and duly filled in with particulars, entitles the applicant to have any desired specification forwarded to him, without additional charge for transmission.

SCIENCE.

THE impression forced upon one who attempts to keep pace with the progress of science is that this particular field of human activity has become as many-sided as the universe itself, and that to register its progress with anything like adequacy would demand omniscience. As one looks through the scientific records of the year one feels as if one were in the midst of an endless crowd of keen-eyed imps peering into every corner of the Kosmos and taking everything to pieces to see what it is made of. It is only possible, therefore, in the space at our disposal, to notice briefly those matters which have come most prominently to the front during the year, or which have specially wide bearings.

The heavens have been peculiarly favourable for observation in certain of their aspects during 1892. Mars, Venus, and Jupiter have been particularly conspicuous, and there has been some sensational writing as to what certain astronomers are alleged to have seen on the face of our neighbour Mars. This planet has long attracted the attention of "watchers of the skies." It is so comparatively near our earth, its surface is so free from clouds as compared with Venus, its general aspect so similar to that of our own world, that it may almost be said to have a human interest for us. To deal with recent times, it is nearly 30 years since Mr. Norman Lockyer turned his 'prentice telescope upon Mars and mapped its surface in a series of diagrams.

The record of his observations may even now be studied with profit. At a later date Schiaparelli tried to map the surface of the planet in even more detail; and the investigations which were carried on by Professor Pickering in 1892 from the special observatory, established at a height of 8,000ft., at Arequipa, Peru, have extended and confirmed the observations of Lockyer and Schiaparelli. The planet was in opposition in 1892, and its disc therefore considerably larger than usual. The so-called "canals" observed by Schiaparelli were seen by Professor Pickering. Unfortunately, the word "canals" has been adopted as a translation of the Italian *canali*, which, as Schiaparelli used it, really means channels. That the forces of nature are immensely active on the surface of Mars is evident, but there has been absolutely no sign detected of living beings on its surface. Every winter enormous snow caps are seen to cover the Polar areas and come much nearer the equator than is the case with the earth at its present stage. In the spring these rapidly melt, and, apparently, on the surface of the snow, and on the surface of what is believed to be land, channels of enormous width are developed or revealed, and at certain times these channels appear to be double. As to what these channels are there have been several conjectures, but they are only conjectures, and it remains for future observers to discover the actual fact. Other strange things have been seen on the face of our neighbour. The general colour of the land is ruddy, so much so as to give tone to the planet as seen by the naked eye. Mr. Lockyer very pertinently suggests that it would be important to find out what gives the land of Mars this ruddy colour. Bright spots have been seen on the edge of the planet, gleaming up suddenly like enormous fires, and as suddenly darkening down. Some anthropomorphic writers have suggested that these bright spots, which must cover a great area on the surface in order to be visible at this distance, are signal fires lit by the Martian people in order to attract the attention of their earthly neighbours. This is mere wild conjecture, which need not be taken

seriously, though the astronomers of the early part of the century suggested that we might accumulate some thousands of square miles of fuel in the Sahara and make a gigantic bonfire as a friendly signal to any beings like ourselves who might inhabit the neighbouring worlds. But science does not work after these rude methods now. It is evident that much more may be learned as to the geography of Mars with proper instruments, a trained eye, and patience. More powerful telescopes than any we now have will be constructed, and these will doubtless bring the planet many miles nearer than has yet been done. Meantime we shall be interested to read the detailed account of Professor Pickering's observations, for as yet we have only had preliminary notes. Is Mars really at an earlier stage of development than we are ourselves? Has life yet been born on its surface? Is it undergoing a glacial epoch? Are the enormous forces which sweep over its surface analogous to those to which the earth was subjected at an early stage of its career, and can we account in this way for some of those stubborn facts which rigid uniformitarians cannot explain? These and other equally interesting questions are suggested by the recent revelations as to the geography of Mars, so that when next it is in opposition it is to be hoped that we may be able to observe its surface under even more favourable conditions than Professor Pickering has been able to do at Arequipa. Meantime it may be noted that Mr. Schaeberle, of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, suggests, contrary to the received theory, that the dark portions of Mars are land and the lighter portions water.

The telescope has also been turned to our lovely neighbour on the other side, Venus, though it can hardly be said that it has revealed more than we knew already. The conviction is confirmed that we rarely see the face of this most brilliant of the planets; it seems to be covered with an almost permanent veil of cloud except at the poles, which are apparently capped with magnificent mountains of ice. Trouvelot's handsome work on the planet really tells all that is known about her.

The past year has been marked by the discovery of a fifth satellite to Jupiter, which, it is conjectured, like Venus, only presents to us a surface of cloud or vapours. In this and other connexions one cannot but notice the magnificent work which is being done at the splendidly-equipped Lick Observatory, in the United States.

The sun has been receiving as much attention as ever from astronomers of all classes. In an interesting article contributed to *L'Astronomie* Lord Kelvin examines various hypotheses to account for the particular manner in which our great central furnace was kindled, the general idea being that masses of matter of some kind came together with such stupendous force as to generate incandescent gas. On the other hand, M. Le Chatelier has been endeavouring to estimate the temperature of the sun, to which various values have been given, from 1,500deg. C. to 5,000,000deg. C. M. Le Chatelier concludes from various considerations that the effective temperature of the sun is 7,600deg. C. —*i.e.*, about 13,700deg. Fahr. Mr. G. F. Hale, of the Astrophysical Observatory, Chicago, has been carrying out an important series of spectroscopic observations on the sun's disc. The indefatigable Professor Pickering has been observing with some care the face of the moon, and comes to the conclusion that our satellite is not so dead as has been assumed. He does not, as has been implied in some quarters, positively assert that there may be still some remains of volcanic activity in the stupendous lunar craters. But that changes have taken place in some of them seems clear when present observations are compared with those which were made years ago. How these are to be accounted for it is difficult at present to say.

A "New star" in the constellation of Auriga, discovered with a common telescope by an amateur in Edinburgh, the Rev. T. D. Anderson, attracted considerable attention, and was observed by various astronomers and spectroscopists as long as it was visible. About a score of new planets were discovered, many of them by photography, three at the Nice Observatory in Sep-

tember. A Dutch astronomer, Mr. Kapteyn, has been doing valuable work in carefully examining the photographic star charts, which are becoming more and more available, and which enable those that have eyes to see to form a more precise conception than is otherwise possible of the distribution of the stars and star clusters, small and great. As usual, several comets have been started and nebulæ investigated. Mr. Isaac Roberts, one of the most successful of astronomical photographers, has been searching for the planet which is supposed to exist beyond Neptune, but without success. Considerable progress has been made towards the erection, under the care of M. Janssen, of an observatory on the summit of Mont Blanc. The importance of high-level observatories has been demonstrated, and as that on Mont Blanc will be open to all astronomers much good work will no doubt be done. A similar observatory is being built on Monte Rosa. Nearer home, but, of course, at a very much lower elevation, a new observatory is being erected on Blackford-hill, Edinburgh. These are some of the more generally interesting astronomical matters of the past year, but they are mere samples of the kind of work that has been carried out at scores of observatories, by hundreds of observers, with telescope and spectroscope and the other instruments by which we try to cozen the skies of their immeasurable secrets.

Chemistry and Physics have become intimate allies of one of the most interesting and suggestive departments of Astronomy. Chemistry itself, as a science, has reached almost unmanageable dimensions. It has a terminology and a symbolism of its own, into which certain anomalies have been creeping that have produced confusion and misunderstanding. This led to an International Conference of Chemists, held at Geneva at Easter, at which certain very precise rules were adopted as to the methods to be followed in giving names to new combinations. In other respects this conference, it is believed, will have beneficial results on the vast army of chemical-workers all the world over. Noteworthy, also, was the address on Progress in Chemistry and

Physics by Professor Ostwald, one of the most eminent of Continental chemists, on recent advances in physics and chemistry. Professor Ostwald has also been continuing his researches and discussions on the theory of solutions. A very beautiful instance of chemical research during the year has been that by Professor Thorpe and Mr. Sutton, resulting in the discovery of the real nature of phosphorous oxide. Equally remarkable was Deslandres' account of his discovery of 14 lines in hydrogen, rendered possible by spectral observations of the sun and stars, resulting in the detection of a striking analogy between these lines and certain harmonics of sound. Lord Rayleigh published during the year the results of his long-continued research on the relative densities of hydrogen and oxygen, 1 to 15·882. Professor H. E. Armstrong's paper on some of the results of his researches into the origin of colour must also be mentioned. The inevitable new element was discovered in Egypt, and was appropriately named Masrium.

Physics is the inadequate name given to a vast and varied department of science. It includes all the multifarious phenomena connected with electricity and magnetism, which in their theories and their applications engage quite as many workers as chemistry itself. We can only say that during the year there has been no slackening in the progress made in both directions. One of the most wonderful demonstrations during the year was Mr. Nikola Tesla's manipulation of powerful currents of electricity at the Royal Institution and the Society of Electrical Engineers. With Jovian recklessness he played with the artificial lightning which he generated, and made himself the medium of currents of such power as, according to accepted theory, ought to have killed a hundred men. This he could do, we understand, because he had discovered how to convert "shocks" into a practically continuous stream of successive oscillations. He holds that a phosphorescent glow is the light of the future, and hints at artificial auroræ shedding their rays from the summits of towers of enormous height. A paper of considerable importance was given to the Physical Society (one of the most "living" of our

scientific societies) by Professor Fitzgerald on electro-magnetic vibrations. Both at the Royal Society and at the Royal Institution, Professor Oliver Lodge, one of our most original and daring investigators, described his delicate researches as to the connexion between ether and matter and the motion of ether near the earth, making us wonder more and more what this intangible something can be. The Electrical Exhibition at the Crystal Palace was a noteworthy event of the year.

Tardy justice has been done to an investigator who was born before his time, by the publication by the Royal Society of Waterston's Theory of Gases, read in abstract to the Society in December, 1845, but pronounced by the referee to whose judgment it was submitted to be "nothing but nonsense, unfit even for reading at the Society." Lord Rayleigh in his preface to the paper points out that Waterston had indicated some of the most recently accepted theories as to gases. Another service done by the Royal Society during the year has been the publication of the report of its Committee on Colour Vision, the practical recommendations of which it is to be hoped will receive attention.

Mr. John Aitken has been continuing his researches on the subject of Dust Particles in the Atmosphere. One conclusion reached by Mr. Aitken is that a great amount of dust increases the day temperature and checks the fall of temperature at night. M. Mascart has been investigating the mass of the atmosphere, and finds it one-sixth greater than is usually calculated. Dr. Assmann, a German physicist, has been observing temperatures at a considerable height in the atmosphere from a captive balloon, and in winter found that the temperature aloft was higher than on the ground, which may be an encouragement to Dr. Nansen to make use of captive balloons in his proposed Polar expedition. Some new ideas on the general circulation of the atmosphere were brought before the Paris Academy by Dr. Pernter.

Professor Roberts-Austen brought before the Institution of Civil Engineers during the year a photographic method of re-

cording high temperatures, devised by himself, which is being adopted in the larger iron and steel works in this country. Results of singular scientific interest have already been obtained by its aid, and it is evident that the introduction of accurate physical measurement in connexion with metallurgy promises to be of great industrial importance.

Turning to Biology we find that during the year the battle has been waging, though not with so much heat, around Weissmann's theories of heredity and transmission. Weissmann has a few ardent disciples, but there has hardly been any sign during the year that his complicated theories have taken root. There have been numerous suggested modifications of his theory; most of them will strike the outsider as being little better than wild guesses, much too complicated and unintelligible to be probable. As to the transmission of acquired individual characteristics, it seems to be generally admitted that what is wanted is more observation and experiment.

Professor Mosso, of Turin, delivered the Croonian lecture this year, and described the interesting researches he has been conducting for some time on the temperature of the brain. Professor Anderson Stewart has been continuing his researches into the human mechanism with fresh results. His investigation into the mechanism of the closure of the larynx upsets the accepted theory as to the function of the epiglottis. During the year were published Metschnikoff's remarkable lectures on the comparative pathology of inflammation, in which he shows how much is to be learned from the study of low forms of life.

Belonging more to biology than to geology are Dr. Nathorst's researches in North Germany and Russia on the distribution of Arctic plants during the glacial period. He confirms Edward Forbes's theory (1846) that the Alpine flora of Europe, so far as it is identical with the Arctic and sub-Arctic zones of the Old World, is a fragment of a flora which was diffused from the north, and that the termination of the glacial epoch in Europe was marked by a recession of an Arctic flora northwards. On the

other side of the world a wonderful fossil marsupial fauna has been discovered in Patagonia, which leads to conjecture as to whether in a past age there may have been a connexion between America and Australia. The living fauna of South America has been lovingly watched for years by a keen-eyed young naturalist, Mr. Hudson, whose "Naturalist in La Plata" deserves to take high rank among works on natural history; in some cases he seems to have had a deeper insight into the origin of certain traits in animals than even Darwin himself, who would have been the first to welcome so able a fellow-worker in his own field.

Mr. H. O. Forbes has been working on the Chatham Islands, and discovered the bones of a remarkable bird which suggests curious theories as to distribution, for its nearest congener is in Madagascar. Mr. Charles Hose, one of the residents under the Rajah of Sarawak, interested in natural history, has been travelling in the interior of his province, and on Mount Dulit has discovered new birds, one of which has its nearest relation in the far distant Kina Balu.

The marine biological laboratory established on Puffin Island in 1887 was removed to the Isle of Man during the year, and steps have been taken for the establishment of a similar station on the island of Jamaica. The unedifying controversy on vivisection initiated at the Church Congress need only be mentioned. Much more important work has no doubt been done in biology during the year, which should be referred to did space permit; but we cannot conclude the section without reference to the valuable service done to scientific and practical botany during the year by the regular publication of the *Kew Bulletin*. A noteworthy event, not only in connexion with biology, but in the general scientific history of the year, has been the celebration in Paris of the 70th birthday of Pasteur (December 27), one of the most beneficent of modern investigators.

In Geology there has been quite as much activity in the past as in previous years, but hardly anything that may be said to stand conspicuously above the general level of good work. Pro-

fessor Lapworth's address to the Geological Section of the British Association at the Edinburgh meeting certainly attracted much attention. Its broad and striking views as to the origin and mode of formation of the great features of the earth's surface may be taken as a new departure in geological theory, and these have certainly inspired some of the younger geologists to work out the history of our globe on the lines indicated by Professor Lapworth. The venerable Professor Prestwich's investigations into the raised beaches of the south of England, described in his contributions to the Geological Society, are of more than local interest; they have important bearings on the ever-interesting subject of a glacial epoch. The veteran American geologist J. D. Dana has devised a new subdivision of the Archæan history of our globe, based on kinds of rocks, stratification, and other considerations. Mr. R. J. L. Guppy's researches on the geology of the island of Trinidad have considerable importance as indicating the probable connexion in past epochs among the West India islands, and between them and the continent of South America; while Australian geologists have been discovering what they believe to be indubitable evidence of a glacial epoch in their continent. Certain investigations in connexion with the biological aspects of geology have been referred to under the section dealing with biology.

In Anthropology one of the most important movements during the past year has been the appointment by the British Association of a committee to conduct an ethnographical survey of the United Kingdom. A former committee did some important work in this direction, collecting interesting *data* as to height, weight, strength, complexion, &c., for various well-defined districts in the kingdom; the present committee will go to work on more comprehensive and precise lines, and the results, which cannot be expected for a year or two, ought to be of considerable scientific importance. In the columns of *The Times* Dr. Munro gave a highly interesting account of the discovery of an old lake-dwelling near Glastonbury, Somerset, belonging probably to what is vaguely

known as the later Celtic period. Both on the Continent and in America interesting discoveries have been made of the remains of races long since extinct, or absorbed into others that have come upon them as conquerors or otherwise.

Connected quite as much with anthropology and archæology as with astronomy are Professor Norman Lockyer's researches on the ancient Egyptian monuments, which have been continued during the year, with some very striking results as to the knowledge of the heavens possessed by the builders of these monuments. As a sort of side issue from these researches may be mentioned Mr. Lockyer's inquiry as to the origin of the year. In the same category may be classed Mr. Theodore Bent's examination of the various "Zimbabwé" ruins in Mashonaland, the results of which excited considerable interest during the past year.

The subject of technical education was dealt with in a specially critical manner by Professor Ayrton in his presidential address to the Electrical Engineers and by Mr. Meldola at the Photographic Society. Probably the views of neither will satisfy those extremists who would insist too much on theoretical science as a preliminary in all cases to practice. The peerage conferred on Sir William Thomson (Lord Kelvin) and the Privy Councillorship on Professor Huxley were rightly regarded as honours to science, thoroughly well deserved in each case.

There has been a heavy death list among eminent men of science during the past year; we need only mention the names of Airy, Owen, J. C. Adams, Bates, Hirst, Sterry Hunt, Quatrefages, A. W. Hofmann, James Thomson, Stas (the great chemist), Burmeister, Rutherfurd (solar physicist), Mouchez, and Schorlemmer.

TRAVEL AND GEOGRAPHY.

THE most prominent feature in the geographical world during the past year has been the celebration of the fourth centenary of the discovery of America by Columbus. Little notice was taken of it in this country, probably because England had nothing to do with an event which was one of the great turning points in the world's history. England's turn will come in 1897, the fourth centenary of the year in which Cabot struck Newfoundland. In Spain, naturally, the Columban celebrations were universal. At Huelva and Madrid there have been great conferences; at the latter city there was a remarkable exhibition illustrating the state of the world in 1492; and at many other places in Spain there were *fêtes* of varying degrees of splendour. Italy celebrated the great discovery of her countryman by *fêtes* and conferences at Genoa. Hamburg did not forget the event; and, through the Berlin Geographical Society, Germany showed her sense of its importance by the publication of a magnificent atlas of ancient maps, many of them found in manuscript in the libraries of Italy. The Royal Geographical Society did not overlook the occasion; it devoted an evening to the consideration of Columbus and his discovery by Mr. Clements R. Markham. Although the United States was not behindhand in 1892, the Great Republic, the splendid outcome of the discovery of Columbus, is reserving its great effort for 1893, when the biggest of all exhibitions will be opened at Chicago.

There is little of moment to record as to exploration in America during the past year. The surveys of the United States and Canada have continued their admirable work. An expedition subsidized by the Royal Geographical Society for exploration in the valley of the Amazons unfortunately came to a premature end through the illness of the leader. Mr. Everard im Thurn has been telling us much that is new concerning our somewhat stagnant colony of British Guiana. Dr. Machin has been doing good work in Patagonia, exploring the Rio Negro, the Neuque, and the Chubut territories.

Although Greenland seems to hang on to America, it is generally regarded as unattached, and as being, by virtue of its climate, within the Arctic region. Lieutenant Ryder, of the Danish Navy, returned during the year from an expedition of some duration on the east coast, during which he added greatly to our detailed knowledge of that picturesque and inhospitable region; one magnificent fjord, of many branches, he carefully mapped. On the opposite coast, a German expedition under Dr. Drygalski has been at work during a great part of the year, and will continue its work during the first half of this year, it being considered of scientific moment to have a complete year's observations on the meteorology and ice conditions of the country. But by far the most remarkable Arctic expedition of the year has been that under Lieutenant Peary, of the United States Navy, which, from the north-western coast of Greenland, succeeded in crossing the inland ice to the north coast, at a point to the south-east of the furthest point previously reached. Full details are awaited of Lieutenant Peary's work, which is stated to be of high scientific value. He is expected to appear before the Royal Geographical Society on an early date, and describe not only the results of this expedition, but the plans that he has formed of another expedition, which, taking the north coast of Greenland as a starting-point, proposes to push north as far as practicable towards the Pole. It is thus just within the bounds of possibility that Lieutenant Peary and Dr. Nansen

may cross each other's routes, or even that the two may meet. Dr. Nansen described his plans to the Royal Geographical Society in November, and submitted to the criticism of various high Arctic authorities. As might be expected, the Arctic veterans thought Dr. Nansen's scheme foolhardy and dangerous, though one or two of his critics gave him distinct encouragement. His carefully-constructed vessel, the Fram, was launched during the year. On the other side of the world three Dundee whalers are pushing south in the Antarctic, and, though their main object is the search for whales, they have been well equipped with scientific instruments by the Royal Geographical Society and Mr. Leigh Smith, so that we may look for some additions to our knowledge of a region that has been neglected for nearly 50 years.

In Europe the year has been signalized by the completion of the remeasurement of an arc of the meridian, decided on in France in 1869, and undertaken after the war of 1870. This involved a variety of operations, and the French triangulation is now connected by actual observation with the surveys of England and Spain. In our own country a committee has been investigating the conduct of our Ordnance Survey and the character of the maps published, which were subjected to a very necessary and searching criticism in the columns of *The Times*. It remains to be seen what will be the final result.

In Asia there has been great activity. Various Russian expeditions have been patrolling the centre of the continent. Exploration and survey went hand in hand with the military expeditions sent out on the Burmese frontier on the one hand, and the North-West Indian frontier on the other. Without doubt the most remarkable expedition in Asia completed during the year was that of Captain Bower across the widest part of Tibet, from Leh past Lassa (he seems to have got to within about 100 miles of the forbidden city) to Tsiamdo and Ta-tsien-Lu. Except where the expedition crossed the routes of Bonvalot, Carey, and the Pundit Nain Singh, the country traversed was

entirely unexplored, and from the few details of the results which have appeared it is evident that Captain Bower and his companion, Dr. Thorold, with their few attendants, have not only succeeded in breaking new ground, but have done a great deal of work of scientific value. It is expected that Captain Bower will give an account of his expedition at an early meeting of the Royal Geographical Society.

Mr. W. M. Conway's expedition to the Karakoram Mountains is one of many-sided interest. He and his companions succeeded in reaching a height of 23,000 feet. But this was not a mere climbing enterprise. Mr. Conway was well supplied with instruments and has succeeded in doing some excellent map-work, much of it quite new. He will have much to tell of the vast glaciers of this region of stupendous mountains, while his camera has been busy even at the highest points reached. Mr. Conway, like Mr. Whymper, has shown that for the scientific geographer there still remain vast regions to conquer. Equally important from a scientific standpoint, and covering a more extensive field, has been the expedition of Mr. W. W. Rockhill southwards through eastern Tibet. Mr. Rockhill, formerly a member of the United States Legation at Pekin, had previously accomplished a hazardous journey in this region, described in one of the best books of travel of recent years. On this last journey he succeeded in getting almost within hail of Darjeeling, when the suspicious Tibetan priests compelled him to turn back. Mr. Rockhill, like Mr. Conway, was well supplied with instruments, and has brought home with him a carefully-executed map of the whole region traversed. He will, it is expected, tell his story at an early meeting of the Royal Geographical Society.

The Hon. George Curzon, M.P., has been travelling in Korea, and, although he may not have been able to break new ground to any great extent, it is evident from the communications which have been received from him that his observations will prove of interest from the geographical as well as the political point of view. From the neighbouring island of Yesso Mr.

Savage Landor (a grandson of the poet of that name) has recently returned, after having gone completely round the island and up some of its largest rivers. He lived with the hairy Ainos, and visited places where not even Japanese had been, so that we may expect something novel from him when he tells his story to the Royal Geographical Society. Professor Milne, of Tokio, also crossed the north-west part of the island about the same time, and added considerably to our knowledge of its geography, as well as of its botany, zoology, and geology.

Dr. Diener's expedition to the Central Himalayas must not be passed over. Starting from Naini Tal (accompanied by Messrs. Griesbach and Middlemiss, of the India Geological Survey) Dr. Diener ascended several peaks, some of them close on 20,000ft. high, and made valuable observations on the geology and the glaciers of the region.

In Africa there has been no falling off in exploring activity, although nearly all the expeditions of the past year have had a political or commercial object in view. From South Africa Mr. F. C. Selous has just returned, bringing with him a complete map of Mashonaland, almost every mile of which he has traversed either as a hunter or in the service of the British South Africa Company. With him has returned Mr. Duncan, the Company's Surveyor-General, who has been engaged in mapping on a large scale and in minute detail the various townships which have been established and the farms in their neighbourhood which have been taken up. From the other side of the continent Count Joachim Pfeil has returned from an expedition of some duration through German Damaraland; he also has brought with him a map of large dimensions, embodying much careful survey work.

Early in the year Mr. Theodore Bent described the results of his examination of the wonderful "Zimbabwé" ruins in Mashonaland, and quite recently he has set out for Abyssinia to examine the equally interesting ruins at Axum. Although Mr. Joseph Thomson returned more than a year ago from his

expedition from Lake Nyassa to Lake Bangweolo, he has only recently been able to report upon the results of his observations on the fine plateau country lying to the north of the Zambesi. In the Lake Nyassa district Mr. H. H. Johnston and his staff have been examining the country on the Upper Shiré with some minuteness, Captain Sclater having done some good survey work in connexion with his road-making. An expedition under M. Delcommune completed an extensive journey during the year in the southern territories of the Congo Free State, during which the Luapula and other upper waters of the Congo were examined, previously unobserved parts of their course laid down, and more accurate information obtained as to the hydrography of the region generally. M. Delcommune is of opinion that the Luapula should be regarded as the main stream of the Congo. The upper course of the Luapula is broken by a magnificent series of waterfalls. Other expeditions in the Congo Free State have been extending our knowledge of that extensive territory; one under Van den Kerckhoven has settled at Lado, where it may very likely be attacked before long by the Khalifa's forces from Khartoum.

In the Guinea country, Governor Carter of Lagos has discovered a new range of mountains in Benin; while Captain Gallwey has visited the city of that name. The French military expeditions towards the Upper Niger have been continued. Lieutenant Mizon is again on his way up the Niger and Benué, but is hardly likely to do much for geography. The most remarkable French African expedition during the year has been that under Captain Monteil, which has been under way since 1891. Monteil crossed the great bend of the Niger to Say, thence through Sokoto and Bornu to Lake Chad; into the fanatical Mahomedan State of Wadai, and thence northwards across the desert to Tripoli. So far we have heard more of the political than the geographical results of the expedition, but as Monteil has been in regions which have not been visited since the time of Barth and Nachtigal, he ought to be able to tell us much that

is new. He contradicts flatly the statement that Wadai is under the Senoussi influence, and maintains that the Senoussi sect have no real influence beyond their settlement in Tripoli. In the Algerian Sahara, French travellers like MM. Foureau and Méry, have been exploring mainly with a view to railway routes.

Many rumours have reached Europe concerning the wanderings of Emin Pasha; it seems probable that he is still alive and is making his way westwards to the Congo. His companion, Dr. Stuhlmann, has brought home the rich results of his journeys along with Emin in the country between Lake Victoria and Lake Albert Edward. There also Captain Lugard has been; and all around Lake Albert Edward, in the Semliki country, on the shores of Lake Albert, and in the country between that lake and Lake Victoria he has been able to fill in many blank spaces on our maps, and supplement the work of Mr. Stanley and other previous explorers. On the east and south-east of Lake Victoria, that model German explorer, Dr. O. Baumann, has done some admirable work, discovering new lakes and an active volcano. The party sent out to survey for the proposed railway between Mombasa and Lake Victoria, under Captains Macdonald and Pringle, have completed their work. Captain Pringle has returned to England, and brought with him a series of very careful maps of the routes surveyed and the country in their neighbourhood. Further north, Commander Dundas made an important journey up the Jub river and proved its value as a waterway. An expedition under Lieutenant C. H. Villiers left England in October with the intention of proceeding up the Jub, and so making its way into Somaliland. Although this expedition is mainly for sport, it is accompanied by Mr. Gregory, of the Geological Department of the British Museum, so that we may expect some geographical results. Further north, Captain Swayne and his brother, Lieutenant Swayne, have been making journeys in the Somaliland interior. Much is expected from the expedition fitted out at the expense of Mr. Chanler, an American, accompanied by Lieutenant von Höhnel, an Austrian

officer, who has already been exploring in British East Africa. This expedition intends in the first place to proceed to Lake Rudolf and explore the region around Mount Kenia. During the past year Dr. Schweinfurth spent a considerable time in the Italian possession of Eritrea, and made careful investigation into the biology, ethnology, and geography of Northern Abyssinia.

With regard to Australasia, there is nothing special to record. Sir William Macgregor has been as active as ever in exploring British New Guinea and the neighbouring islands.

In Oceanography, a Russian official expedition has been doing good work in the Black Sea. Some very remarkable results have been obtained as to the distribution of life in that sea, its saltness, and its probable past relations with the Mediterranean. These were described by M. Andrusoff at the Edinburgh meeting of the British Association, where also the Prince of Monaco gave an account of the results obtained by dropping some thousands of specially prepared bottles in the Atlantic. The course taken by the bottles which were picked up affords a very precise clue to the currents of the North Atlantic. The first two parts of Dr. H. R. Mill's elaborate memoir on the Clyde Sea Area, the results of long-continued examination, were issued during the year. Our own ships have, under direction of the Admiralty, been surveying the waters and shores of all the oceans.

An important contribution to scientific geography was made by Professor Lapworth, in his address to the Geological Section of the British Association on the heights and hollows of the earth's surface. A comparison by Professor Walther of the deserts of North America, North Africa, and India brought out the important part played on the earth's surface by dry denudation.

It may be regarded as a noteworthy event in geography that Greenwich time was adopted during the year in Belgium and the Netherlands. Austria-Hungary, Germany, in part (the whole

Empire will conform in 1893), Luxemburg, Servia, Western Turkey, and Sweden have now all adopted as a uniform railway time that of 15deg. E. longitude, one hour in advance of Greenwich.

Among the important geographical works published during the year may be mentioned Mr. Whymper's "High Andes of the Equator," the Hon. George Curzon's "Persia," Mrs. Bishop's "Journeys in Persia and Kurdistan," Binger's "Du Niger au Golfe de Guinée," the completion of Junker's "Travels in Africa," and the new complete edition of Bates's "Naturalist on the Amazons." The new edition of Berghaus's "Great Physical Atlas" has been completed, as also has the "Universal Atlas," issued by Messrs. Cassell, and a new edition of Perthes's well-known ten-sheet map of Africa.

The chairs of geography established at our two great Universities—Oxford, Mr. H. J. Mackinder; Cambridge, Mr. J. Y. Buchanan—have continued to grow in importance and usefulness, while a third chair has been established at Owens College, with Mr. Yule Oldham as professor.

The Royal Geographical Society sustained a great loss during the year in the death of Mr. H. W. Bates, who had been its secretary for 27 years, and Lord Arthur Russell, for many years its foreign secretary. The Society has continued to increase in activity and enterprise during 1892, pushing out in various new lines. Already during the present session it has had two extra meetings. It has instituted Christmas lectures for young people, and a series of educational lectures of a university standard for its members and the public. The old "Proceedings" have been changed into the *Geographical Journal*, which will be enlarged in size and broadened in scope so as to make it a comprehensive geographical magazine, the leading organ of geography and travel in the English language. The number of officers, consuls, and others going abroad who avail themselves of the Society's system of instruction is rapidly increasing; while, as is known to not a few, the Society continues to render

more and more important services to the Government departments. The council have brought the Society abreast of the times by carrying out the spirit of its charter in admitting ladies as ordinary members. The Society feels keenly the restricted accommodation of its present premises, and it is hoped that the Government may see its way to give or lease a site for a new building in the neighbourhood of Westminster. The Society's Oxford Scholarship has been gained by Mr. Beardoe Grundy, who has gone to Bœotia to study its geography in connexion with its history. The important bearings of geography on history were ably pointed out by Sir Mountstuart Grant-Duff in his presidential address to the Society. The members joining the Society have been unprecedented in number during the year; at one meeting no fewer than 110 were elected. The Society appointed last summer a special committee to make arrangements for the International Geographical Congress, which meets in London in 1895. The other societies in the kingdom—those of Edinburgh, Manchester, Liverpool, and Newcastle—continue to flourish and to do good work.

The deaths among travellers and geographers during the year have been heavy. Besides Mr. Bates, already mentioned, there have passed away Colonel Grant, Junker, Stairs, Duveyrier, and Spruner.

MUSIC.

OF late years opera has occupied so prominent a position in public attention that it may well claim a first place in a summary of the year's music. This form of art cannot be held to reach its highest degree of influence in any country until the works of the best of that country's composers receive their due share of publicity, and in this sense opera in London cannot yet be considered national, in spite of the continued patronage of society and the admirably comprehensive foreign repertory. The feature of this year's scheme was a series of performances in German, for which a special company and orchestra were engaged, and in the course of which the Wagnerian trilogy was revived. Frau Sucher, who was to have appeared in this work, as well as in *Tristan und Isolde*, was recalled to Germany after the first performance, but in Frau Klafsky a most efficient substitute was found, and Herr Alvary's handsome presence and good voice gained him many admirers. In the Italian and French performances the established favourites of the public received the usual amount of favour. Mmes. Melba, Nordica, and Eames, Miss Macintyre, the sisters Ravogli, the brothers De Reszké, MM. Van Dyck, Maurel, Lassalle, and many others, bore the burden of the season, and the engagement of Mme. Calvé gave occasion, not only for the presentment of the popular *Cavalleria Rusticana* under more favourable conditions than before, but for the

production of the same composer's *L'Amico Fritz*, a work of considerable merit, though decidedly inferior to its predecessor owing to its lack of stirring dramatic incident. Two brand-new operas were produced during the summer season, and one during the autumn series, in the course of which many of the most popular artists appeared. None of the three new works had the qualities which bring success. Mr. de Lara's *Light of Asia* showed some feeling for "local colour"; M. Bemberg's *Elaine* an evident familiarity with the scores of certain French composers; and Chevalier Bach's *Irmengarda* an unconcealed admiration for the restless methods of the modern Italian authors, combined with a plentiful lack of originality. The late Victor Nessler's *Trompeter von Säkkingen*, an enormously popular work in Germany, achieved a well-merited failure at Drury-lane, where *Nydia*, an opera by Mr. George Fox, first seen at the Crystal Palace, was also given on a single occasion. The last proved to be a composition of considerably greater merit than the three before spoken of, though it cannot be said that any produced a deep impression. A short opera of some promise, *Caedmar*, by Mr. Granville Bantock, was brought out during a sadly unsuccessful autumn season at the New Olympic Theatre, under Signor Lago's management, in the course of which Tschaikowsky's musicianly *Eugen Onegin* was produced for the first time in England, and Mozart's *Flauto Magico* and *Schauspiel-director*, works neglected for so many years, were revived. The manager struggled valiantly against opposing circumstances, but was compelled to close his doors after some three weeks, during which Mmes. Albani, Fanny Moody, and Swiatlowsky appeared, and successful *dêbuts* were made by Mmes. Duma and Leila. Among the best features of the season given simultaneously with this at Covent Garden, were the revivals of the ballet scene in *Faust* and of *Il Barbiere*, in which Mme. Nevada reappeared; Miss Esther Palliser won most favourable opinions in several parts; and a very

young tenor, Signor Cremonini, was the best of those singers who had not been heard in London before.

In the department of oratorio and other choral forms, one work far surpasses all the others brought out during the year. Dr. Hubert Parry's expressive setting of the story of Job was not the only novelty of the Gloucester Festival, as Professor Bridge's *Lord's Prayer* and Mr. C. L. Williams's *Gethsemane* were also produced there. At the Leeds Festival, later in the autumn, the only new vocal work was Dr. Alan Gray's *Arethusa*, but the splendid choir was heard in Bach's B minor mass, Mozart's *Requiem*, Dvorák's *Spectre's Bride*, and Dr. Parry's *De Profundis*. The last-named composition has not yet attracted the attention of the leading metropolitan societies, but was introduced to London by the energetic Highbury Philharmonic Society, a body which promises to perform the same office for *Job*. Another new work by Dr. Parry, a setting of Tennyson's *Lotos-Eaters*, first performed at Cambridge on the occasion of the inauguration of the new Chancellor, was to have been given by the Bach Choir, but a revival of Verdi's *Requiem* was the main feature of interest in that society's recent work. The University event just mentioned called forth Professor Stanford's only important contribution to the year's music, an ingenious setting of the choral portions of a Latin ode written for the occasion. The Royal Choral Society has not ventured far from the beaten track in the past year. A performance of *Judas Maccabæus* was given at the Crystal Palace on what is called "Handel Festival" scale, and a new work by Mr. MacCunn, *Queen Hynde of Caledon*, was produced at one of the ordinary Saturday concerts at the same place. The choir lately formed under the name of the Middlesex Choral Union gives good promise for the future; a new choir has also been organized by Mr. Henschel, and is to take part in the remaining concerts of his series.

After three concerts given in the early part of the year

by Sir Charles Hallé's orchestra, the attempt to establish these concerts in London was definitely abandoned, to the regret of the small number of amateurs who appreciate the highest standard of orchestral playing. The Philharmonic, Richter, London Symphony, and Crystal Palace concerts kept up their reputation. At the end of the first of these series Mr. Cowen ceased to be the society's conductor, and Dr. Mackenzie has since been appointed in his place. Mr. Manns has brought forward a large number of new works, most of them by extremely young or altogether untried composers. Few of these works have attained a more than ephemeral success, but Mr. Frederic Cliffe's second symphony, first given at the Leeds Festival, bids fair to secure a place for itself among English examples in that form. The Artillery Band, at several semi-private concerts in St. James's-hall, exhibited wonderfully good ensemble, and the Rev. E. H. Moberly's orchestra of ladies gave an exceedingly successful concert in the season.

In chamber music the year was memorable on account of two new works in Brahms's finest manner, written for the clarinet and various combinations of instruments, in which Herr Mühlfeld, a most artistic clarinettist, made his first appearance in England, winning at once the enthusiastic admiration of all classes of musicians. The finer of the new compositions, the quintet for clarinet and strings, was also played at a series of attractive concerts got up by Mr. G. A. Clinton, confessedly in opposition to those of the Wind Instrument Chamber Music Society. Both undertakings did excellent work during the season, and at last amateurs seem to have discovered that music for wind instruments is worthy to be heard. By a curious coincidence, the same year witnessed the first English performance of Herr Mühlfeld and the last appearance of our own eminent player of the same instrument, Mr. Lazarus, who gave an interesting farewell concert in May. Sir Charles Hallé gave a very large selection from Schubert's pianoforte works, and was assisted

by Miss Fillunger, whose delivery of the master's songs it would be impossible to praise too highly. The Musical Guild and several concerts given by Mr. and Miss Bauer deserve mention, as do also the music meetings of Mr. Dannreuther, though these last were interrupted for nearly a year. A series of Thursday Subscription Concerts, arranged on a laudably unconventional plan, met with encouragement, and Mr. Dolmetsch's antiquarian "consorts of viols" were highly interesting to specialists.

Among individual performers M. Paderewski and Señor Sarasate have carried off the palm of popularity. The two recitals which were all that the pianist was able to give called forth an amount of enthusiasm that approached, if it did not surpass, the limit of absurdity, and at the orchestral concerts given by the violinist several works of interest were brought forward. Among new pianists, M. Slivinski was perhaps the best, and M. Siloti and Mlle. Szumowska attained a good deal of success. Among violinists, Fräulein Wietrowetz, a highly accomplished pupil of Dr. Joachim, Miss Lilian Griffiths, and M. Gorski have made the greatest impression. Signor Sgambati and Mlle. Chaminade gave interesting concerts, consisting exclusively of their own compositions; Miss Evangeline Florence, a soprano whose phenomenally high notes are by no means her best qualification as a singer, and Mrs. Fisk, an American mezzosoprano, have already achieved considerable success.

An inordinate number of comic operas have been recently brought out, the majority of which are French productions flavoured to the taste of the English public, and generally spoilt by ineffective interpolations. The production of Sir Arthur Sullivan's *Haddon Hall* and of Mr. J. H. Parry's *Cigarette*, as well as the revival of *Dorothy*, are favourable exceptions.

The greater number of Shakespearian revivals have been provided with incidental music of an altogether worthy kind;

Mr. Henschel's *Hamlet* music and Mr. Edward German's *Henry VIII.* music have both been preserved in the form of orchestral suites. Dr. Hubert Parry's music to *The Frogs* of Aristophanes, written for the interesting production at Oxford, is a fine example of the composer's work in his lighter moods; *La Statue du Commandeur*, a pantomime with music, given at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, was an exhilarating entertainment, though decidedly inferior to *L'Enfant Prodigue*, the first piece of its class brought out in London.

A musical and dramatic exhibition was held at Vienna during the summer, in the course of which many operatic performances of special interest were given. In the group of Italian operas, obviously suggested by the excessive popularity of Mascagni, the strenuous *Pagliacci* of Leoncavallo is decidedly the most successful; the author of *Cavalleria Rusticana* has lately brought out a third opera, *I Rantzau*, founded, like his second, on a subject of somewhat too slight dramatic interest.

Among musical books of the year the most valuable are Mr. Santley's well-written volume of reminiscences and Mr. W. H. Hadow's suggestive and admirably-expressed "Studies in Modern Music," the opening section of which, a dissertation on the functions of criticism, should be laid to heart by all musicians. The firm of Breitkopf and Härtel have reprinted, as the opening volume of a series of "Denkmäler Deutscher Tonkunst," Samuel Scheidt's *Tabulatura Nova*. The Wagner literature has been increased by the late F. Praeger's personal reminiscences of the master, and by the refutation of these subsequently published by Mr. W. Ashton Ellis, whose translation of Wagner's prose works goes on apace.

A number of new appointments have given almost unqualified satisfaction; Sir Joseph Barnby, who has become the principal of the Guildhall School of Music, has been succeeded at Eton by Dr. C. H. Lloyd; Professor Stanford's resignation of the post of organist to Trinity College, Cambridge, has led to the appointment of Dr. Alan Gray in his place;

and Sir Herbert Oakeley has been replaced in the chair of music at Edinburgh by Professor F. Niecks, under whose conscientious direction admirable opportunities are now offered to musical students.

In Arthur Goring Thomas English music lost one of its most brilliant ornaments, a composer whose refinement of style delighted true musicians as much as his lighter manner did the public at large. The proceeds of the memorial concert, at which all the most popular operatic artists appeared, endowed a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music. The obituary list for the year includes the names of Edouard Lalo, the clever composer of *Le Roi d'Ys*; Robert Franz, the legitimate successor of Schumann as a songwriter; of E. Guiraud, Heinrich Dorn, Baron Bodog-Orczy, and C. E. Stephens among composers; of F. Ronger, known as Hervé, one of the most famous purveyors of French *opéra bouffe*; of J. B. Zerbini, once a well-known member of the quartet at the Popular Concerts; of Mme. Trebelli, Signora Cataneo, Jean B. M. Chollet, and Ciampi among operatic singers. The demolition of Her Majesty's Theatre will be felt almost as a personal loss by many of the *habitués* of the opera in its palmy days.

THE THEATRES.

THEATRICALLY, the year just closed has narrowly missed being a disastrous one. It opened while the influenza epidemic was at its height, and the high death-rate from this cause, together with the long period of Court mourning and stagnation of West-end trade which followed the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, tended seriously to depress the business of public amusement. Happily, the latter half of the year has redeemed to some extent the shortcomings of the first. It cannot be said, however, that the year has been a prolific one as regards drama, or that the quality of the dramatic output has been high. With one or two notable exceptions, such of the theatres as have had a prosperous autumn and winter have been devoted to the lighter kinds of entertainment. Shakespeare has been played with much success at two West-end houses, Mr. Irving producing *Henry VIII.* and *King Lear* at the Lyceum, and Mr. Tree *Hamlet* at the Haymarket. *Lady Windermere's Fan*, by Oscar Wilde, attracted the public for many months to the St. James's, and *Liberty Hall*, a later production at the same theatre, by Mr. R. C. Carton, promises to do as much. Otherwise the honours of the year have fallen to farce, or, at least, light comedy, in the shape of *Niobe* at the Strand, a humorous parody of the Pygmalion and Galatea legend by the Messrs. Paulton; *Walker, London* at Toole's, which has given Mr. J. M. Barrie a position as a dramatist;

and *The Guardsman* at the Court Theatre, the product of a happy collaboration by Mr. George R. Sims and Mr. Cecil Raleigh. All these new pieces were original, and, indeed, there has been a well-marked disposition on the part of the public to prefer works of native origin. It was probably for this reason that a skilful adaptation of *Le Demi-Monde*, produced at the Criterion by Mr. Wyndham under the title of *The Fringe of Society*, did not meet with general approval, while such old favourites as *The Pink Dominoes* and *Betsy* were revived to little purpose. By an odd coincidence neither of our two leading dramatists has had a new play produced in London within the past year. Since the withdrawal of *The Crusaders*, which ran but a little way into the new year, Mr. Henry Arthur Jones has been busily engaged writing a play for Mr. Wyndham and another for Mr. Tree, both works being held in reserve, and although Mr. Pinero has completed a new play for Mr. George Alexander, entitled *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*, it cannot see the light until the close of the apparently long run in store for *Liberty Hall*. The temporary absence of Mr. Jones and Mr. Pinero from the arena has not been without its compensations. Mr. Carton is not a new writer, his name having been associated in past years with two or three well-turned pieces, either as author or part author. But with *Liberty Hall* he may be said to have taken a place in the front rank of English dramatists of the present day. Mr. Barrie's success with *Walker, London*, which has brought Mr. Toole into the pleasantest relations with the public, will tend doubtless to divert his attention still more to the stage than has hitherto been the case. Another comedy from the same graceful pen is understood to be in the possession of Mr. Willard. Mr. Barrie has long had leanings towards the theatre, his earliest attempt to win the applause of the playgoing public having been made at an experimental *matinée* soon after his arrival in London, when he and a brother novelist treated, not too effectively, the career of Richard Savage. Mr. Oscar Wilde, too, is a welcome

recruit to the meagre ranks of the dramatists, and he proposes in the spring to follow up *Lady Windermere's Fan* with a new play written for the Haymarket, under the title of *A Woman of No Importance*. A year which should have seen Mr. Pinero, Mr. Jones, Mr. Barrie, Mr. Carton, and Mr. Oscar Wilde, to say nothing of such masters of melodrama as Mr. Sims, Mr. Buchanan, and Mr. Pettitt, writing side by side for the stage could, under favourable circumstances, have occupied a more than respectable place in the annals. As it is, 1892 has been a year of promise rather than of fulfilment.

Largely because of its inferior quality, involving short runs and frequent changes of programme, the amount of new work put forth at the theatres has been considerable. Such melodramas as *The White Rose* and *The Lights of Home* were probably equal in point of merit to the majority of Adelphi dramas. They had, however, special drawbacks to contend against. *The White Rose*, an historical drama by Messrs. Sims and Buchanan, with Oliver Cromwell as its central figure, was avowedly an experiment. It was felt that some change from the ordinary run of melodrama was desirable, and the Adelphi public were tempted, but in vain, with an adaptation of "Woodstock." On the withdrawal of *The White Rose* a return was made to the stock class of entertainment provided by Messrs. Sims and Buchanan in *The Lights of Home*, which, although a well-made play, containing a highly realistic and sensational shipwreck, suffered, no doubt, from its resemblance to its predecessors. As a Christmas novelty the Adelphi management have put forward a new drama of German-American origin, entitled, after its German original, *The Lost Paradise* ("Das verlorene Paradies"). This, dealing with the conflicts of capital and labour, is of a socialistic tendency, and appeals to the public, therefore, both by reason of its novelty and its *actualité*, but it does not seem likely to restore the lost popularity of the somewhat primitive and crude class of dramatic handiwork to which it belongs. A fresh and wholesome specimen of the newer melodrama is *The Prodigal*

Daughter, by Mr. Henry Pettitt and Sir Augustus Harris, which, after being shunted from Drury Lane in order to make way for the Christmas pantomime, continued its prosperous career at Covent Garden. This piece will be remembered for its wonderful representation of a steeplechase, in which half-a-dozen horses take part, one of them, according to the programme, being a former winner of the Grand National. The latest play of this class produced in London —namely, *Eagle Joe* at the Princess's—will not redeem melodrama from the unpopularity into which, in its existing form, it seems to be falling. Of the numerous plays, less sensational in style, but more ambitious in aim than those immediately enumerated, there is little to be said. If they have shown signs of cleverness it has not been cleverness of a kind which pleases the general public. Mr. Haddon Chambers, who made a promising *dêbut* as a dramatist, has not maintained his reputation. *The Queen of Manoa*, upon which he collaborated with Mr. Outram-Tristram, fell flat in Mrs. Langtry's hands, and shorter still was the career of his farcical comedy, *The Old Lady*, in which Mrs. John Wood played at the Criterion. A clever play, by Mr. Mark Melford, *The Maelstrom*, failed because of the author's attempt to illustrate an unpleasant theme—insanity. In *Agatha Tylden*, Mr. E. Rose committed the mistake of substituting as the climax of his story the bankruptcy of his heroine for the usual happy realization of lovers' vows. In *David*, again, the scientifically fascinating, but popularly unattractive, theme of insanity proved unproductive in the hands of Mr. Louis N. Parker. *The Bread-winner* was fatal to Mr. Calmour's experiment in management, and *The Silent Battle* will owe whatever success it may attain to the efforts of Mr. Wyndham and an exceptionally strong company at the Criterion. *A Broken Melody* was remarkable only as a setting for Mr. Auguste van Biene and his violoncello, being the first example probably of a play written around a musical instrument. Greatly daring, Mr. Eden Grenville made Shakespeare the central figure in a piece which introduced most of the poet's

known familiars and was ridiculed for his pains. Of excellent workmanship, though unattractive in treatment, was the St. James's play of *Forgiveness* by Mr. Comyns Carr, whose appearances as a dramatist are all too rare.

The quality of farce or farcical comedy, compared with the usual run of this class of piece, has been distinctly high. *Niobe* would be amusing in any circumstances from the incongruity of its classical theme with the paltry modern surroundings in which it is placed, but it gains much from the humorous acting of Mr. H. Paulton as a fire insurance agent of Peckham-rye, in whose keeping the statue of Niobe is accidentally galvanized into life by an electric wire. *Walker, London* is delicate in fancy and with less careful treatment than it receives from Mr. Toole would have incurred some risk of failing to secure appreciation. In *The Guardsman* both Mr. Sims and Mr. Raleigh repeat their success in the farcical vein by their lightness and dexterity of touch. *To-day*, by Mr. Brookfield, is an attempt to adapt the virtually unadaptable *Divorçons* of MM. Sardou and De Najac. As an application of the French motive to English life it is more ingenious than plausible. Almost on Christmas Eve Mr. Penley came forward in a new and highly-diverting character at the Royalty, that of "Charley's Aunt" in a farce of the same name by Mr. Brandon Thomas. Here Mr. Penley promises to achieve a success only inferior to that of *The Private Secretary*, in which piece he played during the summer at the Comedy Theatre. On a somewhat lower level than the foregoing are to be placed *A Lucky Dog*, by Mr. W. Sapte, and *Uncle Mike*, by Miss Florence Warden. The former was about the only piece found worthy of revival among the many tried during a busy matinée season. To quite the lower end of the scale may be relegated Mr. Lubimoff's adaptation from the Russian, *You Mustn't Laugh*, which had a brief and disastrous run at the Opera Comique. The Independent Theatre has continued to give intermittent performances, mostly of foreign plays, the only English piece produced under its auspices being a socialistic drama by

Mr. Bernard Shaw, directed against the London landlord and extolling the virtues of a Progressive County Council.

Never has Shakespeare been mounted with more artistic care or lavish expenditure than during the past year. The former element was chiefly noticeable in *Hamlet* and *King Lear*, the latter in *Henry VIII.* Lear has proved to be one of Mr. Irving's most characteristic impersonations, courting favourable comparison even with his Louis XI. During the run of *Henry VIII.* Mr. Irving revived Bulwer Lytton's *Richelieu*, and at alternate performances embodied the two great cardinals of the stage, Richelieu and Wolsey, a *tour de force* which he carried out with entire success. During the summer months, two French companies, headed respectively by Mme. Sarah Bernhardt and M. Coquelin, played in London. The experiment was disastrous to M. Coquelin, whose season at the Opera Comique, under M. Mayer's management, came to an abrupt and untimely close. At the Royal English Opera-house, on the other hand, Mme. Sarah Bernhardt's performances were as popular as ever, though two new plays in which she appeared—M. Sardou's *Cléopâtre* and a French version of the German drama, adapted many years ago in this country under the title of *Leah*—proved less attractive than the familiar pieces in her repertory. At the close of the French season the Royal English Opera-house ceased to be a theatre, and was transformed into a palace of varieties, upon the model of the Alhambra and the Empire. Burlesque has sustained a severe loss in the death of one of its favourite exponents, Mr. Fred Leslie, and the prolonged illness of another, Miss Nelly Farren, of whose return to the boards there is no immediate prospect. Mr. Leslie's death was due to typhoid. Nothing could show more strikingly the extent to which he was identified with the pieces in which he appeared than the fact that the new burlesque in which he was to have played at the Gaiety has had to be abandoned. The burlesque of the present day depends not upon the author, but the actor. Mr. Leslie was author and actor both, and built up the "busi-

ness" of the part before supplying it with dialogue. As the result of his death it is probable that Gaiety burlesque, which of late years has been closely approximating to the "variety" performance, will again change its form, since he has left no successor possessed of his own unflagging energy and resource as an entertainer. The vacant place at the Gaiety is filled by Mr. Arthur Roberts, who, being also a specialist in burlesque of a different type, has brought his piece with him; for the prevailing practice in this class of entertainment is that the piece should be adapted to the actor, not the actor to the piece. *In Town*, in which Mr. Arthur Roberts gives one of his most amusing impersonations, is a pointed example of a system in which the author is entirely subordinated to his interpreter. As usual *interim* managements have cropped up for a brief space. Mrs. Langtry occupied the Haymarket and Miss Estelle Burney the Garrick during the absence on tour of Mr. Tree and Mr. Hare but their selection of plays did not meet with unqualified approval. After a long period of management Mr. Thomas Thorne retired from the Vaudeville, which has since been occupied by the Messrs. Gatti, with a highly successful revival of *Our Boys*.

THE TURF.

THERE was every ground for anticipating, at the beginning of the year, that most of the great races of the season would fall to the share of the Kingsclere stable, which, with Orme, La Flèche, and Goldfinch, to say nothing of lesser lights like Windgall and Watercress, seemed very strong in three-year-olds. There is no need to dwell in detail upon the way in which these expectations were in part disappointed, for the misadventure which befell Orme must still be fresh in the memory even of those who do not concern themselves much with what goes on in the racing world, but subsequent events have shown that the Duke of Westminster's colt, whatever might have been his fate in the Derby, would have won the Two Thousand Guineas very easily had he not been so rudely interrupted in his training. The mishap to Orme was not the only disappointment which the Kingsclere stable had to endure, for Goldfinch, whose two-year-old running gave earnest of a very brilliant future, could not be trained for his engagements, and although he was sent to the post for the Two Thousand Guineas, he was in no sort of condition to run and has not been seen since. But, if Orme in part and Goldfinch altogether came short of expectations, the Kingsclere stable none the less achieved far more than any other, thanks in the main to the magnificent series of victories gained by La Flèche, with whose name the season of 1892 will for all time be identified. That La Flèche is the

best mare seen since the days of Achievement, if not of Virago and Crucifix, cannot for a moment be questioned, and it was very unfortunate for her owner that, like so many fillies, she should have been caught just at her worst in the Epsom week. But for this she would have made short work of Sir Hugo in the Derby, and would have beaten The Smew far more easily than she did in the Oaks. Yet, even as matters stand, her record is a glorious one, embracing as it does victories in the One Thousand Guineas, the Oaks, the St. Leger, the Lancashire Plate, and the Cambridgeshire, besides three minor races. Opinions will differ as to which of her victories did her the most credit, for while some people will point to her St. Leger triumph, others will assert, and probably with reason, that the best thing she did was to defeat such a large field, and that with all the worst of the weights, in the Cambridgeshire. Captain Machell, whose judgment in these matters is generally very correct, would not believe it possible for any three-year-old to give Pensioner 34lb., but this La Flèche accomplished without much difficulty, and the subsequent victory of Pensioner in the Old Cambridgeshire confirmed the merit of her performance. But her running in the St. Leger had already settled the question as to which was the best three-year-old, and the ease with which she beat Sir Hugo in that race showed how unlucky she was in not winning the Derby. Yet although there is no reason to question the accuracy of the running for the St. Leger, so far as the first two are concerned, it is doubtful whether Orme showed his true form in that race, for even if, as may very possibly be found, this sensational colt is lacking in stamina, he ought to have done better than he did. Orme had only run twice before he appeared at Doncaster, the first occasion having been when he won the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park from Orvieto. The greatest possible curiosity was excited by his reappearance, and the race at Sandown was watched with passionate interest, the final struggle between Orme and Orvieto exciting such enthusiasm as is not often displayed upon a

racecourse. Orme only just beat Orvieto at weight-for-age, and a fortnight later he was within a head of being defeated by his stable companion Watercress in a mile race at Goodwood. This ought to have opened people's eyes to the probability of his not being the wonder so many good judges deemed him to be, but it was thought that he had not fully recovered from the effects of his long illness, and that by the Doncaster week he would be a different horse altogether. This calculation, however, turned out erroneous, and if Orme in his five subsequent races at Newmarket did rather better than at Doncaster, he cannot be said to have quite regained the high place he held at the beginning of the season. Still, even if he failed in his last race to give 16lb. to so greatly improved a colt as Colonel North's El Diablo, after having run twice in the previous 48 hours, he stands out as the second best three-year-old of the season, and it is much to be hoped that he will be found next season quite free from the infirmity of Ormonde, his sire. The misadventure to Orme opened up the early three-year-old races to animals which had not, while he was well, much chance of distinguishing themselves, and the success of Mr. C. D. Rose's Bonavista in the Two Thousand Guineas was one of the rare pieces of luck which his owner has had. The favourites for that race were Goldfinch and Persistive, the latter of whom has since shown that he had no sort of pretension to win it, and Bonavista found his most dangerous opponents in Mr. Milner's St. Angelo and Prince Soltykoff's Curio. St. Angelo just failed to stay home, but it was thought that if he had been differently ridden he would have won, so a fresh jockey was put up for the Newmarket Stakes with the result that he did not do so well, for he was beaten this time by Curio, who had finished behind him in the Two Thousand Guineas. St. Angelo was knocked about a good deal in the Derby, and as he beat the winner of that race both before and after, there may be good reason for believing that he ought to have done better at Epsom. But stamina was clearly not his strong point, for his

owner would not run him in the St. Leger, but reserved him for the Lancashire Plate, in which he was again the victim of ill luck, as he crossed his legs and fell just as he seemed to be pressing La Flèche closely. Several successes in races of less importance did not make amends for all this, but St. Angelo was a good horse at a mile for all that, though perhaps a still better was to be found in Mr. H. M'Calmont's Suspender, who, after he had won the Royal Hunt Cup at Ascot, failed to stand training. Baron Hirsch had, too, in Watercress and Windgall two three-year-olds of more than average merit, and it is most probable that if the former had been sent over to France he would have won the Grand Prix de Paris, a race which his owner is particularly desirous of securing. There was more than one three-year-old of good class not included in the above lot, such as Mr. Rose's St. Damien, who was known to be better than Bonavista, but who, like him, went amiss after beating the best of the French four-year-olds for the Hardwicke Stakes at Ascot. Yet even after this mishap, he ran well against Orme and Orvieto for the Eclipse Stakes, and there is no saying what he might not have done in the autumn. But there was no fighting against the ill-luck of this stable, for all four of their three-year-olds, Bonavista, St. Damien, Lorette and The Smew, the last-named of whom had run second to La Flèche for the One Thousand Guineas and the Oaks, went wrong, while the French-bred Ermak, who had been sent over to Newmarket, ran second for two of the chief handicaps in the autumn.

In speaking of the four-year-olds, it may be added that no one animal stands out so distinctly the superior of the rest as La Flèche does among the three-year-olds, for while Orvieto did not disgrace himself by running second to Orme for the Eclipse Stakes and to La Flèche for the Lancashire Plate, there is quite as much to be said in favour of Lord Rosslyn's Buccaneer, who has made such great improvement since he was a three-year-old. There was nothing very remarkable about his first victory this season in the City and Suburban Handicap, as he carried

a comparatively light weight, but he ran so well afterwards that Lord Rosslyn did not hesitate to make matches with him against Orvieto and Nunthorpe at even weights. These matches, it is true, fell through, and Buccaneer's latest performances were less satisfactory, though it was no discredit to him that he should have failed to get near La Flèche when giving her 11lb. in the Cambridgeshire. Upon the other hand he added nothing to his reputation when he beat Nunthorpe for the cup given at Portsmouth, for the latter was at that time in no condition to run, and if Buccaneer is to retire from the Turf with the reputation of being a really good horse, he will have to be kept in training another season and take the measure of better animals than any which he has thus far beaten. Few horses of merit are kept in training now after they have reached their fifth year, but the two most valuable handicaps of the season were won by six-year-olds, Mr. Hamar Bass's Rusticus repeating his victory of the year previous in the Leicestershire Royal Handicap, while Mr. Smith's Miss Dollar won the new race at Kempton named after the Duke of York. Rusticus had so much the best of the weights that his success was no credit to him, but Miss Dollar was meeting her opponents on less favourable terms, and although her success was unexpected, the performance was a fairly good one.

This is scarcely the moment for discussing in detail the doings of the two-year-olds, but there seems to be good reason for hoping that among those which have been running this season there are several of sufficiently equal merit to render the three-year-old contests quite as interesting as they were this year, to say nothing of the possibility of there being among the "dark" lot another Common or Merry Hampton. But the best of the two-year-olds which ran this season were, beyond all doubt, Mr. M'Calmont's Isinglass and Mr. Abington's Meddler, the respective winners of the Middle Park and the Dewhurst Plates, each of whom won three races, and may be regarded as having about equal claims to consideration. Isinglass has, perhaps, a

trifle the advantage of Meddler, taking the line through the Duke of Portland's Raeburn, who ran against both of them in the autumn, but there is not much to choose, and more will depend upon the relative progress which they may make during the winter. Should either of them justify the hopes which they now inspire, their respective owners will occupy at the end of next season a much more prominent position among the winning owners than they do this year, for they stand only eleventh and twelfth on the list, with totals of about £8,000, or less than a quarter of the amount credited to Baron Hirsch, who has secured with eight horses 22 races worth £33,383. More than £25,000 of this was won by La Flèche in her eight victories, but Watercress contributed over £4,000, and Windgall nearly half that sum in the October Handicap at Newmarket and the Liverpool Autumn Cup. Baron Hirsch has won nearly double as much as Sir J. B. Maple, who comes second on the list with a total of £17,156, won by 23 different horses in 42 races, the chief contributors being the two-year-old Minting Queen, whose seven victories amounted to nearly £4,000, and Balmoral, whose success in the Manchester Cup added over £2,000 to his owner's winning account. Dame President's two victories did not bring in quite £1,000, and Childwick, the colt by St. Simon—Plaisanterie, for whom Sir J. B. Maple paid 6,000 guineas as a yearling, did not run. Yet, even if he does not prove a good three-year-old, Minting Queen and Dame President should do their owner some service next season, and his prospects are therefore decidedly better than those of Colonel North, who comes third with 19 winners of 31 races worth £15,590, for among these is no two-year-old which showed any promise. Colonel North did best with El Diablo, who, after being off colour in the early part of the season, made great improvement in the autumn, beating the Derby winner, Sir Hugo, in one race and Orme in another ; but it must be added that he had a great pull in the weights. Still, he contributed £2,000 to his owner's balance, or more than double the amount won by

Nunthorpe in the Liverpool Summer Cup, and it seemed as if he was developing staying powers which will stand him in good stead as a four-year-old. The Duke of Westminster, who might reasonably have expected to have been at the head of the list, comes only fourth with a total of £14,613, won by five horses in ten races, and of this over £13,000 was contributed by Orme, who, despite his vicissitudes, has earned nearly twice as much as Sir Hugo, the lucky winner of the Derby. Mr. C. D. Rose, who follows the Duke of Westminster with a total of £12,042, has, like him, not had many winners, Bonavista having secured £4,835, St. Damien £2,735, Ravensbury £2,280, and Lorette £880, Bonavista being the only one of Mr. Rose's horses which won more than once; whereas General Owen Williams, who comes sixth with a total of £11,051, had 11 winners of 17 races, his best being the two-year-olds Périgord and Haut-Brion, who won respectively four races worth £5,560 and one worth £1,625. The two other owners who won over £10,000 are Mr. J. Charlton and Mr. Houldsworth, each of whom had seven winners, but whereas Mr. Charlton secured 21 races, Mr. Houldsworth's colours were only 13 times first. By far the most successful of Mr. Charlton's horses was May Duke, who took five races worth over £3,300, but Tanzmeister and Lady Lena were substantial contributors; while Mr. Houldsworth did best with Dunure, who won five races worth over £5,000, Orvieto, Springtime, Bushey Park, and Inverdon winning about £1,000 each.

Twelve owners have won between £5,000 and £10,000, the first of these being Lord Rosslyn, who had more winners than any other owner excepting Sir J. B. Maple and Colonel North, for 17 of his horses won 28 races, worth £9,220, though the only one of any quality was Buccaneer, whose seven victories were worth over £5,200. Mr. H. Milner, with 12 winners of 22 races, runs him close with a total of £9,170, of which nearly half was contributed by St. Angelo; but few owners have so large and so costly a training stable and stud as Mr. Milner and the

Dowager Duchess of Montrose, so that, as is the case with several other owners who have won still larger sums, notably Sir J. B. Maple and Colonel North, the result is satisfactory only in appearance. The same holds true of Mr. Abington, who with 15 winners of 29 races, worth £8,375, has not, in reality done nearly so well as the two next on the list, Mr. H. M'Calmont and Lord Bradford, who have won respectively 11 and five races worth £8,180 and £8,060. For while Mr. Abington has a stable and stud almost, if not quite, as extensive as that of Mr. Milner, Mr. M'Calmont has very few horses in training, the best of his representatives this season being Suspender and Isinglass; while Lord Bradford, who won over £7,000 by the success of Sir Hugo in the Derby, has also only a small stud. But Mr. Abington might, perhaps, claim third place in the winning list, as Milford, of whom he made a present to Mrs. Langtry just before that colt won his first race at Kempton, put together a total of £7,818, which stands to that lady's credit, though he is still in Mr. Abington's stable. Lord Calthorpe and the Duke of Portland are very near together, each having won 14 races, worth about £7,000, and as in each case the principal successes were gained with two-year-olds, Buckingham securing four races worth £2,500 for Lord Calthorpe, while The Prize and Mrs. Butterwick earned nearly £5,000 for the Duke of Portland, it is very probable that these two owners may do still better next season. The Duke of Portland, however, will have scant reason to complain even if he has no luck for several seasons, for, as the appended table will show, he has won more than any other owner of horses in the last six years, his total winnings since he began to race in 1881 being over £170,000, while, unlike many owners of large studs, he has sold his surplus stock for such high prices as to defray in a great part his expenses. Mr. J. W. Smith owes nearly all his total of £6,280 to the three victories of Miss Dollar, and the two other owners who won between £5,000 and £6,000 achieved that position with two unfashionably-bred two-year-olds—Mr. C. J.

Cunningham, with Tibbie Shiels, and Mr. R. Marsh with Tanderagee. The table showing the principal winning owners for the last six years is as under :—

Name of Owner.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Duke of Portland ...	7,338	5,208	25,203	73,858	26,811	9,554	147,972
Dowager Duchess of Montrose and Mr. Milner	9,170	13,311	14,123	21,545	5,200	16,116	79,465
Lord Calthorpe	7,280	1,295	10,500	4,824	26,647	13,387	63,933
Duke of Westminster ...	14,613	10,930	5,352	3,546	18,345	8,968	61,754
Mr. Abington	8,374	5,174	11,882	9,410	5,274	15,624	55,738
Colonel North	15,590	20,118	10,654	1,380	None	None	47,742
Sir J. B. Maple... ...	17,160	12,640	4,580	8,960	768	3,165	47,293
Mr. J. H. Houldsworth	10,115	9,050	14,720	3,994	6,238	2,007	46,124
Mr. Douglas Baird ...	4,802	611	4,652	6,922	10,617	16,819	44,423
Mr. R. C. Vyner ...	3,028	5,156	4,025	7,376	8,935	15,358	43,878
Lord Alington ... Sir F. Johnstone ...	940	19,311	2,149	4,284	3,264	13,110	43,058
Baron Hirsch	33,383	7,810	1,382	None	None	None	42,575
Mr. Leopold Rothschild	1,156	8,576	9,396	8,960	4,298	2,823	35,209
Prince Soltykoff ...	4,666	4,913	8,593	7,163	8,869	982	35,186
Mr. N. Fenwick ...	2,003	20,519	4,493	4,227	1,864	None	33,106
Duke of Beaufort ...	2,839	3,520	6,566	100	4,007	15,573	32,605
Sir R. Jardine	5,560	2,512	4,546	5,308	11,813	2,805	32,544
General O. Williams ...	11,051	1,974	1,741	613	4,833	11,734	31,946
Mr. C. D. Rose... ...	12,042	8,773	512	6,568	1,919	1,787	31,601

These are the only owners whose winnings have averaged £5,000 per annum for the last six years, and it will be observed that the Duke of Portland, who for three years in succession (1888-1890) was at the head of the list, has won more than double the amount secured by any other owner excepting the Dowager Duchess of Montrose, whose horses ran in the name of " Mr. Manton " previous to her marriage with Mr. Milner. There were no fewer than 76 owners whose horses won between £1,000 and £5,000 this season, headed by Mr. Douglas

Baird, whose ill-fortune, like that of Mr. Houldsworth, has almost passed into a proverb, but he owns a fairly good two-year-old in Silène, who won the rich Prince of Wales's Stakes at Goodwood, while the double victory of Martagon in the Gold Vase at Ascot and the Goodwood Cup made some amends for the long series of disappointments which that well-bred horse had caused his owner. Next in order of importance come Prince Soltykoff, for whom Curio won over £4,000 in three races, and Mr. W. Cooper, whose three-year-old The Lover beat Curio for the Epsom Grand Prize and picked up two other small races, while Mr. Hamar Bass had the good luck to secure over £4,000 with Rusticus in the Leicestershire Handicap. Lord Dunraven, the Duke of Devonshire, and Mr. R. C. Vyner are among the seven owners who have won between £3,000 and £4,000, Marvel having been the best representative of the Duke of Devonshire, as the two-year-old Marcion, in whose future many good judges place great confidence, was of Mr. Vyner. The Duke of Beaufort, whose horses seemed to be quite out of form, the Earl of Ellesmere, Lord Gerard, Lord Hastings, the Marquis of Londonderry, Sir James Miller, and Mr. Noel Fenwick, the last-named of whom was first last year with over £20,000 won by Mimi, Gantlet, and Gossoon, are among those who have won between £2,000 and £3,000; while more unsuccessful still, the Marquis of Zetland, Mr. William I'Anson, Mr. Leopold Rothschild, and Colonel Oliver Montagu are among the 40 owners whose winnings do not reach £2,000. It would be easy to find still lower in the list the names of other well-known owners who have fared still worse, Lord Alington and Sir Frederick Johnstone, who did such great things with Common and Goldfinch last season, having won only five small races worth £940; while Earl Cadogan with two winners of £475, Lord Randolph Churchill with three of £340, and the Earl of Rosebery with one of £195 have done little better than the Duke of Hamilton and M. Edmond Blanc, who failed to win at all, M. Blanc having

been particularly unlucky with Rueil in the Derby and his brother Marly at Ascot, though in his case there was some compensation, as his horses won about £23,000 in France, where he was second on the list of winning owners to Baron de Schickler.

While Baron Hirsch was the most successful owner of horses in England, thanks to the merits of La Flèche, that famous filly's sire St. Simon has, for the third year running, obtained the first place in the list of winning stallions, 21 of his stock having won 47 races worth £55,995. This is a total which has only once been exceeded in the annals of racing, and that was in 1866, when the progeny of Stockwell won rather more than £61,000. But there is every reason to expect that St. Simon will, if his life is not cut short, do more than Stockwell himself, for, in the very first year of his stock running, he was third with a total of £24,230. This was in 1889, and since then he has been first with totals of £32,799, £26,880, and now with close on £56,000, while it is to be noted that among his many winners this season were two-year-olds of such great promise as Raeburn, Perigord, and Silène. Next to St. Simon, but separated by a very wide gap so far as the amount of their winnings is concerned, come Bend Or and his son Ormonde, the former of whom is represented by 19 winners of 40 races worth £17,892, while Ormonde, though he had only three winners of nine races, is credited with rather more than £16,000. Bend Or's chief contributor was the three-year-old Bonavista, but The Prize did well for him among the two-year-olds, though it is to be feared that her infirmity of wind may prevent her from taking high rank next season. Ormonde, of course, owes his position almost entirely to Orme, though Llanthony won the Ascot Derby, and his single two-year-old representative, Glenwood, secured both the races for which he started. The fourth sire on the list is Wisdom, who had 13 winners of 27 races worth £15,840, the best of these being Sir Hugo, whose victory in the Derby brought in a trifle over £7,000. Wisdom was not

represented by any good two-year-olds, so that he may not stand so well next season, but as his stock have won over £80,000 in the last six years, he has done well at the stud for a horse that was never successful on the racecourse. Next to him come Saraband and Isonomy, the former of whom made a good start with his two-year-olds last season, when they won nearly £5,000, while he has more than doubled that total this year, his sons having won 13 races worth over £12,000, the best of these being the two-year-old Milford. Isonomy, whose death was such a loss to the breeding interest, is not far behind, and as his best two representatives were the two-year-olds Isinglass and Ravensbury, there is good reason to hope that his name will be kept alive next year. He has been scarcely less successful than St. Simon, his stock having won little short of £100,000 in the last six years, and he takes precedence of Galliard and Robert the Devil, who are credited with totals of rather over £10,000 each, the most successful of Galliard's stock being the two-year-old Queen of Navarre and the three-year-old Windgall, while Robert the Devil, though he had the same number of winners, could boast of nothing better than the three-year-old El Diablo and the four-year-old Dare Devil, winner of the Chester Cup.

These were the only eight sires whose progeny won as much as £10,000, but 17 others were, as the appended table will show, represented by winners of between £5,000 and £10,000, the first in the list being Springfield, who had 14 winners of 16 races worth £9,174, Watercress, who secured over £4,000 in three races, being the only one which was successful more than once. Last year Springfield's stock won only £2,700, but in the three previous seasons he had about £45,000 to his credit, so it can scarcely be said that he is maintaining his average, and he is now getting on in years. This is also the case with Hampton, whose stock have won 24 races worth almost as much, the best of them being Balmoral, who won the Manchester Cup, and Versailles, who, though the property of

the Prince of Wales, was running in the name and colours of Lord Marcus Beresford when he secured two races at Newmarket. Muncaster and Hermit come next with totals of about £8,000, the best of Muncaster's 13 winners being Suspender, though May Duke won three times as much money, and of the nine winners which kept Hermit in the forefront the most successful pair were the six-year-old Rusticus, who won over £4,000, and the three-year-old Whisperer. The name succeeding Hermit is that of Galopin, who was for so many years his companion at the Blankney Stud, and if Galopin did not have one of his "great" years, as in 1889, when his progeny won over £43,000, a total of £7,700 brings the winnings of his progeny during the last six years up to something like £110,000. Charibert, who was recently exported to Germany, and Retreat, who has just been reimported to England from France, were the two other sires with winnings of over £7,000, Charibert's stock having won 28 and Retreat's 22 races. Neither of them had any good two year-olds, and, with the exception of Alice, who is responsible for nearly one-half of Retreat's winnings, there was nothing of mark in either list. However, the following table will indicate very clearly what were the relative positions held by the sires whose stock won over £5,000 :—

Name of Sire.	1892. No. of Winners.	1892. No. of Races Won.	1892. Amount Won.	1891. Amount Won.
St. Simon	21	47	£55,995	£26,850
Bend Or	19	40	17,892	12,843
Ormonde	3	9	16,049	10,867
Wisdom	13	27	14,955	17,833
Saraband	7	13	12,133	4,677
Isonomy (dead)...	15	21	11,330	18,522
Galliard	16	34	10,403	9,083
Robert the Devil (dead) ...	19	34	10,174	14,628
Springfield	14	16	9,170	2,600
Hampton	15	24	9,053	8,324
Muncaster (dead)	14	32	8,778	4,823
Hermit (dead)	9	20	8,201	13,183
Galopin	9	23	7,733	21,019
Charibert	14	28	7,646	6,257

Name of Sire.	1892. No. of Winners.	1892. No. of Races Won.	1892. Amount Won.	1891. Amount Won.
Retreat	11	24	£7,617	£3,456
Prism	9	16	6,758	5,476
Morgan	4	7	6,200	1,541
Minting	5	11	5,970	First Season
St. Gatien	6	15	5,695	385
Privateer (dead)	3	9	5,591	2,967
Barcaldine	15	25	5,513	20,523
Hagioscope	12	17	5,422	6,688
Melton	13	22	5,387	3,368
Elzevir	1	3	5,285	—
Thurio	6	8	5,074	6,676

There are 26 other sires whose progeny have won between £2,000 and £5,000, among them being the Derby winner George Frederick, who was sold this summer for 65 guineas; Master Kildare, who was disposed of for 800 guineas the other day; Peter, who has not fulfilled the hopes entertained of him at one time; and Petrarch, who has not for many years been so low in the list as he is this. Nor, unfortunately, were there any two-year-olds among Petrarch's few winners, while the most promising of the younger sires whose stock bring them into this category are Royal Hampton and Florentine, the last-named of whom has doubtless a brilliant future before him. Among the 43 sires whose stock have won between £1,000 and £2,000 are Sterling, whose day is quite done, but who has left a famous line behind him; Beauclerc, who has been more or less of a failure at the stud; Bendigo and Harvester, who have not as yet done much to justify the hopes based upon them when they were taken out of training; and Beau-Brummel, who must nevertheless be cheap enough at the 200 guineas paid for him the other day; while going down still lower we find among the sires whose stock have won less than £1,000 Ossian, the winner of the St. Leger; Enterprise, the winner of the Two Thousand Guineas; Carlton, who was such a good horse on the Turf, and for whom his owner was weak enough to refuse 14,000 guineas some time ago; and Foxhall, who was at least as good

a horse as Carlton, but who has been a rank failure at the stud. Foxhall can only claim one winner of a small race worth £188, but even his case is not quite so bad as that of the Derby winner Sir Bevys, who is not credited with a single race.

OBITUARY.

THE death-roll for the year just expired has been unusually severe, and it contains names of great eminence in almost all ranks and departments of life. First among the Royal personages who passed away was the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, heir presumptive to the British Crown, whose untimely death early in the year elicited universal expressions of sympathy. Her Majesty was also called upon to mourn the loss of two other relatives—the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt, who married Princess Alice, second daughter of the Queen, and Prince Victor of Hohenlohe (Count Gleichen), a nephew of the Queen, who expired on the last day of 1891. The other Royal and semi-Royal losses sustained in 1892 included the Dowager Queen Olga of Würtemberg; the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia; the Dowager Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin; Tewfik Pasha, Khedive of Egypt; Said Omar, the Sultan of Anjouan; the Maharajah of Ulwar, a sagacious native Indian Prince; the Duchess Ludovica of Bavaria, mother of the Empress of Austria; Don Pierre de Bourbon, son of Don Sebastian and Marie Christine de Bourbon; Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca, founder and first President of the Republic of Brazil; Mrs. Caroline Scott Harrison, wife of President Harrison; Archduke Karl Salvator, second son of the late Grand Duke Leopold II. of Tuscany; Prince Gustav of Saxe-Weimar; and Princess Zenikha, widow of the Bey of Tunis.

In the ranks of the Peerage we have lost the Duke of Sutherland, the Duke of Roxburghe, the Duke of Marlborough, Viscount Sherbrooke, Lord Abinger, Earl Bathurst, the Duke of Manchester, Lord Beaumont, Lord Castlemaine, the Earl of Charlemont, the Earl of Denbigh, the Marquis of Drogheda, the Earl of Eglinton, the Earl of Essex, Lord Stafford, Lord Ffrench, Viscount Hampden (ex-Speaker of the House of Commons), the Earl of Harewood, the Earl of Leitrim, the Earl of Lichfield, the Earl of Portarlington, Lord Bramwell, Lord Teynham, Lord Winmarleigh, and Lord Tennyson, who is also referred to under Literature.

From the roll of the Baronetage there have passed away Sir Richard L. de Capell Brooke, Sir John E. Eardley-Wilmot, Sir Francis Burdett, Sir Andrew Agnew, Sir T. W. Evans, Sir Alexander Fuller-Acland-Hood, Colonel Sir Charles J. Hamilton, Sir E. H. Kinahan, Sir Francis C. Knowles, F.R.S., Sir Henry de Burgh Lawson, Sir George E. Nugent, Sir Walter B. Riddell, Lieutenant-General Sir William Russell, C.B., Sir William Henry Salt, Sir T. Wathen Waller, and Sir George H. Waller.

The list of deceased Knights includes Sir George Campbell, K.C.S.I., D.C.L., Sir Lewis Pelly, K C.B., K.C.S.I., Sir Charles P. Butt, the Right Hon. Sir Henry Cotton, Sir James Redhouse, K.C.M.G., Sir George B. Airy, Sir William Aitken, Sir William Bowman, Sir James Brunlees, Sir Oscar Clayton, Sir Morell Mackenzie, Sir George Macleod, Sir George Paget, Sir F. Abbott, General Sir George W. S. Green, General the Hon. Sir A. E. Hardinge, K.C.B., Colonel Sir R. W. Harley, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-General Sir George Byng Harman, K.C.B., General Sir Arthur Lawrence, K.C.B., Major-General Sir T. Townsend Pears, K.C.B., General Sir Campbell Grant Ross, K.C.B., General Sir T. C. Van Straubenzee, G.C.B., Admiral Sir Provo Wallis, G.C.B., Sir James Caird, K.C.B., F.R.S., Sir John Coode, K.C.M.G., Sir Charles Cox, Colonel Sir James Fraser, K.C.B., Sir William Gregory, K.C.M.G., F.R.S., Sir John Lambert, K.C.B., Major Sir Robert M. Mundy, K.C.M.G., Colonel

Sir Robert G. Sandeman, K.C.S.I., Sir Herbert Bruce Sandford, K.C.M.G., Sir Charles J. Wingfield, K.C.S.I., Sir Henry A. Atkinson, K.C.M.G., Sir Alexander Campbell, Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell, Sir John Gorrie, Sir J. S. Grenier, Sir John Hay, K.C.M.G., Sir James M'Bain, K.C.M.G., Sir John Morphett, Sir W. Ritchie, Sir Daniel Wilson, Sir James Spaight, Sir Richard Owen (see Science), Sir Bernard Burke (Ulster King of Arms), and the Hon. Sir Adams George Archibald.

Among other titled personages the following have died :—The Marchioness of Abergavenny, Mary, Marchioness of Ailesbury, the Earl of Ancram (eldest son of the Marquis of Lothian), the Countess of Antrim, Viscountess Arbuthnott, the Dowager Marchioness of Bath, the Countess of Cavan, Lady Christian Cole, Lord Alexander F. C. Gordon-Lennox, Viscountess Gough, Lord Maidstone, Lady Revelstoke, the Dowager Lady Sandhurst, the Countess of Strafford, Lady Taunton, the Hon. J. C. Dundas, the Hon. R. Heneage Dutton, Lord Arthur Russell, the Hon. A. G. Tollemache, the Hon. and Rev. E. J. Monson, General the Hon. Sir A. E. Hardinge, Colonel the Hon. George Villiers, the Hon. W. N. Jocelyn, Lady Radstock, the Hon. W. H. Cross, and Lady Egerton.

From the active and retired list of the Army the following names have disappeared :—Lieutenant-General Lord Abinger, Colonel Sir Charles J. J. Hamilton, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George E. Nugent, Lieutenant-General Sir William Russell, General Sir Lewis Pelly, Colonel C. Napier Miles, Lieutenant-Colonel Windsor Parker, Major-General Sir F. Abbott, General D. H. Abbott, General H. R. Benson, General Thomas A. Carey, Major-General Hastings Fraser, General Albert Fytche, Colonel James Grant (companion of Speke), General Sir George W. S. Green, General the Hon. Sir A. E. Hardinge, Colonel Sir R. W. Harley, Lieutenant-General Sir George Byng Harman, Lieutenant-General C. Stuart Henry, Major-General P. R. Holmes, Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Mortimer Jones, General Sir Arthur Lawrence, Colonel S. P. Lea, General R. W. D.

Leith, General F. C. Maisey, Major-General W. H. March, General H. Marriott, General H. Hamilton Maxwell, General W. R. Maxwell, Sergeant-Major W. Newcombe, Major-General R. E. Noble, Major-General Sir T. Townsend Pears, General Thomas H. Pearson, Colonel M. Petrie, Major James Powell, General E. L. Pym, General Sir Campbell C. Grant Ross, General W. Sankey, Lieutenant-General Charles Sawyer, Major-General E. W. S. Scott, Major-General George Shaw, Lieutenant Maurice Shea (last surviving veteran of Waterloo), Captain W. Grant Stairs, General Sir C. T. van Stranbenzee, General Charles Stuart, Colonel the Hon. George Villiers, Captain W. H. Cornish, Colonel Sir James Fraser, Major Sir Robert M. Mundy, Colonel Sir Robert G. Sandeman, General W. D. Morgan, Lieutenant-General J. Peel, General J. M. Primrose, General Doria, Colonel Henry Augustus Burton, Major-General C. Vanbrugh Jenkins, Lieutenant-General William Hill, Colonel Charles Kenneth Mackenzie Walter, Major-General Rice, Major John Blackwood Colwell, and Colonel David H. Trail.

In the active and retired list of the Navy the following losses were sustained :—Admiral Sir Provo Wallis (the senior officer of the Navy, aged 100 years), Rear-Admiral L. H. Boyle, Captain E. K. Calver, Commander Thomas Cobb, Admiral Henry Croft, Vice-Admiral C. T. Curme, Vice-Admiral J. H. R. Dunlop, Captain John Green (the only survivor of Parry's expedition to the North Pole), Admiral C. Baillie-Hamilton, Admiral James B. L. Hay, Admiral C. Osborne Hayes, Rear-Admiral Edward Kelly, Admiral Mackenzie, Vice-Admiral F. M. Prattent, Commander J. D. Ramsay, Admiral J. Rashleigh Rodd, Admiral T. Pickering Thompson, Paymaster-in-Chief John G. Whiffin (who made three voyages in search of Franklin), Vice-Admiral P. R. Sharpe, Admiral H. Stroud, Vice-Admiral Richard Ashmore Powell, Captain Edward Frederick Dent, Commander Charles Gibbs Crawley, Admiral Woodford John Williams, and Admiral William Sydney Smith.

Among members of the House of Commons the following deaths

have occurred :—Mr. W. J. Beadel (Chelmsford), Mr. T. Lynn Bristowe (Norwood), Sir George Campbell (Kirkcaldy Burghs), Mr. L. L. Dillwyn (Swansea), General Sir Lewis Pelly (North Hackney), Mr. H. Wardle (South Derbyshire), Mr. Edward Whitley (Everton Division of Liverpool), Mr. A. B. Winterbotham (Cirencester), and the Hon. W. H. Cross (West Derby Division of Liverpool).

Of former M.P.'s we have recorded the deaths of the following :—Mr. Hume Dick, the Hon. J. C. Dundas, the Hon. F. Heneage Dutton, Mr. Nathaniel Eckersley, Mr. Humphrey Freeland, Mr. G. B. Gregory, Mr. R. S. Holford, Mr. George Holloway, Mr. C. H. Meldon, Colonel C. Napier Miles, Mr. T. Tertius Paget, Lieutenant-Colonel Windsor Parker, Mr. B. B. Hunter-Rodwell, Lord Arthur Russell, Mr. J. Sinclair, Mr. T. C. Thompson, Mr. J. H. Tillett, the Hon. A. G. Tollemache, Mr. Philip Vanderbyl, Mr. Nicholas Wood, Sir Andrew Agnew, Sir T. W. Evans, Sir John Eardley-Wilmot, Sir William Russell, Mr. John Townsend, Mr. Samuel Holland, and Mr. Alexander Brogden.

From Legal circles there have passed away :—Lord Bramwell, Lord Justice Cotton, Sir Charles P. Butt, Mr. E. K. Karslake, Q.C., Mr. Thomas Linton (Public Prosecutor in Edinburgh Police-court), Bailie J. Martin (Glasgow), ex-Chief Justice May, Mr. W. H. Michael, Q.C., Mr. P. A. Myburgh, Q.C., Mr. M. W. Peace (legal secretary of the Mining Association), Mr. Underhill, Q.C., Mr. Frederic J. Wood, LL.D., Sir W. B. Riddell (ex-County Court Judge), Mr. Meldon, Q.C., Mr. Hunter-Rodwell, Q.C., Mr. Frederick Cockburn (Queen's Coroner and Attorney), Mr. Montagu Williams, Q.C., Mr. Charles Morton, an Edinburgh advocate, Judge Metcalfe, Q.C., Mr. William Mayd, Recorder of Bury St. Edmunds, and Mr. James Mackonochie, County Court Judge.

The losses in the Clergy and among Ministers of all denominations have been very great. Five representative men have passed away in Great Britain alone—namely, Bishop

Wordsworth, of St. Andrews ; Cardinal Manning ; the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon (Baptist) ; the Rev. Dr. Henry Allon (Congregationalist) ; and the Rev. Dr. Donald Fraser (Presbyterian). The other deaths included the following :—Cardinal Lavigerie, Archbishop of Algiers ; Archbishop C. Nar Bey Lusignan, the distinguished Armenian linguist and *littérateur* ; Mgr. Munro, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow ; Dr. Argles, Dean of Peterborough ; Dr. Austin, Bishop of British Guiana ; Rev. Frederick Bagot, D.C.L. ; Rev. Dr. Antliff, an eminent Primitive Methodist ; Bishop Bedell, of Ohio ; Dr. Edward Bickersteth, late Dean of Lichfield ; Rev. R. Birt, missionary in Kaffirland ; M. Bonjean, Archbishop of Colombo ; Rev. Dr. John Cairns, of Edinburgh ; Rev. Charles Clarke, of Birmingham ; Right Rev. T. L. Claughton, D.D., late Bishop of St. Albans ; Rev. Eustace R. Conder, D.D. ; Rev. J. Constable ; Father Davis, of Baltimore, county Cork ; Rev. Dr. James Elliott, first president of the Canadian Methodist Conference ; Professor L. J. Evans, D.D. ; Rev. G. Noel Freeling, Canon of Christ Church and Rural Dean of Oxford ; Rev. T. Garrard, B.D. ; Rev. Thomas Greenall ; Rev. Hugh Hanna, D.D., ex-Moderator of the Irish Presbyterian General Assembly ; Cardinal Howard ; Archbishop Isidor, Metropolitan of St. Petersburg, Novgorod, and Finland ; Rev. E. Jackson ; Rev. R. E. Boucher James ; Canon King ; Mgr. Lamarche, Bishop of Quimper ; Father William Lockhart ; Rev. Thomas Logan ; Rev. A. A. Maclaren, founder of the first Anglican mission in New Guinea ; Most Rev. J. Medley, Bishop of Fredericton and Metropolitan of Canada ; the Hon. and Rev. E. J. Monson ; Rev. J. Vale Mummery ; Rev. Canon Nisbet ; Rev. G. Nugee, founder and provost of St. Austin's Priory, Walworth ; Cardinal Fürstenberg, Prince Archbishop of Olmütz ; Rev. Dr. Phillips, President of Queens' College, Cambridge ; Dr. Henry Philpott, formerly Bishop of Worcester ; Rev. A. W. Potts, Promoter of the Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavour ; Rev. W. O. Purton ; Rev. John Rankine,

ex-Moderator of the United Presbyterian Synod ; Dr. Reeves, Bishop of Down, Connor, and Dromore ; Rev. T. Rhys Evans ; Rev. Dr. Saunders ; Cardinal Simeoni ; Rev. Henry Simon ; Most Rev. Dr. William Smith, Archbishop of Edinburgh and St. Andrews, and Metropolitan of Scotland ; Rev. John Thomas, D.D., ex-Chairman of the Congregational Union ; Dr. Mesac Thomas, first Bishop of Goulburn, Australia ; Rev. Prebendary Walters ; Dr. J. W. Williams, Bishop of Quebec ; Ven. Joseph Woolley, Hon. Canon of Norwich and Archdeacon of Suffolk ; Rev. G. W. M'Cree, the Evangelist ; Rev. G. Ludlow, the oldest beneficed clergyman in England ; Monsignor Jean Langevin, first Roman Catholic Bishop of Rimouski and Archbishop of Leontopolis ; Dr. Ashton Oxenden, formerly Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan of Canada ; the Rev. G. Leonard Gibbs ; Rev. Dr. Graham ; Rev. W. N. Griffin, Senior Wrangler of 1837 ; Rev. Professor J. A. Hort, D.D. ; M. Lecoq, Bishop of Nantes ; Archdeacon Hessey, Father Borghero, Rev. J. Pelham Pitcairn, Rev. William Law, Monsignor T. Tucker Longman, and Rev. Dr. Falding, ex-President of the Congregational Union.

In Art the following losses were sustained :—Mr. Thomas Woolner, R.A. ; Count Gleichen, sculptor (died December 31, 1891) ; Herr Georg Bleibtreu, the German battle painter ; Mr. J. Yates Carrington ; Mr. Henry Doyle, H.R.A., Director of the National Gallery of Ireland ; M. Vital Dubray, French sculptor ; Mr. Robert Glassby, sculptor ; M. Eugène Gonon ; Mr. Henry Graves, the art publisher ; M. Alfred Grevin, the caricaturist ; M. Felix Joseph, the art connoisseur ; Mr. Charles J. Lewis, landscape painter ; Carl Louis Muller ; Paul Peel, Canadian artist ; Mr. John Sadler, historical line engraver ; Mr. W. H. Schroeder, South African artist ; M. E. Signol ; Mr. Lumb Stocks, R.A., the eminent engraver ; Mr. Alfred Tidey, miniature painter ; Mr. A. R. Venables, portrait painter ; Mr. J. D. Watson ; Mr. James Wild, curator of the Soane Museum ; Henrique Dupont, the father of French en-

gravers ; M. Albert Millaud, satirist, of the *Figaro* ; Mr. P. C. Hardwick, architect ; Mr. James S. Virtue, head of the art publishing firm ; Mr. W. T. Roden, portrait painter ; M. Pierre Galland ; Paul le Rat, the eminent engraver; and H. Rohmann, the Russian painter.

The world of Science has to regret the loss of Sir Richard Owen, F.R.S., D.C.L., the celebrated comparative anatomist and palæontologist ; Sir George Biddell Airy, F.R.S., formerly Astronomer Royal ; Professor J. Couch Adams, F.R.S., D.Sc. ; Sir William Aitken ; Mr. H. W. Bates ; Professor Albert J. Bernays ; Sir James Brunlees, the railway engineer ; Henri Duveyrier, African explorer and scientist ; Mr. W. Hood Fitch, the botanist ; Professor Annibale de Gasparis, Director of the Naples Observatory ; Professor Robert Grant, the Astronomer ; Mr. J. W. Grover, constructor of railways and waterworks ; Dr. T. Archer Hirst, F.R.S. ; Professor A. W. Hoffmann ; Mr. T. Sterry Hunt, chemist and mineralogist ; Mr. T. Ramsay Kidd, engineer ; Admiral Mouchez, Director of the Paris Observatory ; Mr. James Plant, geologist ; M. le Quatrefages, the anthropologist and opponent of Darwinism ; Mr. Norman Tate, analytical chemist and engineer ; General W. P. Trowbridge, the reputed inventor of the cantilever bridge ; Major-General Meigs, constructor of the Washington aqueduct and the Pension Building ; M. Ferdinand Duval, civil engineer ; Dr. Wilhelm Junker, the African traveller and scientist ; the Comte de Rouville, designer of the Paris Exhibition building of 1855 ; King Sing Tong, Director of Railways and Mines in Northern China ; the Hon. W. Abbott Wood, inventor of the harvesting machines ; Dr. Werner Siemens, the electrical engineer ; Mr. W. Mattieu Williams, metallurgist ; and Mr. H. T. Stainton, entomologist.

Great losses have been sustained in Literature during the year. The first of contemporary poets has passed away in the person of Lord Tennyson ; France has lost one of her most original thinkers and writers in Ernest Renan ; and the two leading representative poets of the United States—Walt Whit-

man and John Greenleaf Whittier—have gone over to the majority. The other deaths include those of Professor E. A. Freeman, the historian ; Miss Amelia B. Edwards, novelist and Egyptologist ; Mr. T. A. Trollope, novelist and historical writer, elder brother of Anthony Trollope ; F. von Podenstedt ; Dr. J. Collingwood Bruce ; Mr. G. T. Bettany ; Mr. Theodore Child ; Mr. G. W. Curtis, for 34 years editor of *Harper's Magazine* ; Dr. de Vit, Italian philologist ; Valentine Durrant, author of "The Cheveley Novels" ; Mrs. Emerson, widow of Ralph Waldo Emerson ; Mr. C. A. Fyffe ; Dr. George Grub ; Rev. Samuel Longfellow, brother of the distinguished poet, and himself an author ; M. Xavier Marmier ; Dr. Noah Porter, editor of "Webster's Dictionary" ; Sir James Redhouse, Oriental writer ; Mr. J. Brinsley Richards, novelist and *The Times* correspondent at Berlin ; M. Camille Rousset ; Mrs. Sale-Barker, a popular writer for children ; Dr. C. Schülz, Sanscrit scholar and translator ; Dr. W. Forbes Skene, Historiographer Royal for Scotland ; Mr. J. K. Stephen, author of "Lapsus Calami," &c. ; Mr. Roswell Smith, one of the founders of *Scribner's Monthly* ; Professor W. Swinton, historian and geographer ; Sir Daniel Wilson, archæological writer ; M. Emile de Laveleye ; Mr. John Macgregor ("Rob Roy") ; Mr. Thomas Cooper, Chartist, and author of "The Purgatory of Suicides," &c. ; M. Anatole de la Forge ; M. Gustav Ekert, phrenological writer ; Charlotte Edgren, Duchess of Cajanello, the Swedish authoress ; Professor Gindely, of Prague University, historian ; Dr. Gersen Wolf, the Austro-Jewish historian ; Professor W. Maurenbrecher, historian of Reformation times ; M. Charles Narrey, dramatist and novelist ; Sir Bernard Burke, LL.D., and M. Siméon Luce, historical writer.

Severe gaps have been made in the medical world. The losses include Sir George Paget, Regius Professor of Physic at Cambridge ; Sir W. Aitken, of the Netley Army Medical School ; Dr. Henry W. Bellew, Surgeon-General Bengal Army ; Sir W. Bowman ; Surgeon-General Cannon ; Dr. Alfred Carpenter ;

Mr. F. le Gros Clark ; Sir Oscar Clayton ; Dr. J. J. Drysdale ; Surgeon-General Elliot ; Dr. Conway Evans ; Dr. George Y. Heath ; Mr. W. D. Husband ; Mr. S. A. Lane, founder of the School of Medicine at St. George's Hospital ; Sir Morell Mackenzie ; Sir George Macleod ; Dr. John Minter ; Dr. J. C. Steele; Dr. Tilden ; Dr. J. W. Tripe ; Dr. Villemin ; Dr. Forbes Watson ; Dr. Elijah Whitney ; Dr. H. Whiting ; Dr. Mess, of Scheveningen ; Moritz Steinthal, of Berlin ; Dr. Costine ; Dr. Michael W. Taylor ; Dr. David Lloyd Morgan, Physician in Ordinary to the Queen ; Dr. Thomas Hawksley ; Dr. Walter Hayle Walshe ; Dr. S. D. Darbishire, Coroner to the University of Oxford ; and Inspector-General of Hospitals, J. R. Taylor, C.B.

The following foreign celebrities have died :—Prince de Chimay, Foreign Minister of Belgium ; Prince Camille de Rohan ; Countess Tattini, a granddaughter of Murat ; Baroness Bettina de Rothschild ; the Shereef of Wazan ; Father Anderledy, General of the Jesuits ; Cardinal de Annibal ; M. Baross y Bellas, Hungarian Minister of Commerce and Originator of the Zone Tariff ; General Bordone ; M. Louis Cartigny, last survivor of the Battle of Trafalgar, aged 100 ; Professor K. P. Caspari, the Orientalist ; Baron Chazal ; General Cialdini, Duke of Gaeta ; Dom Anselme, Superior-General of the Carthusians; Signor Vittorio Ellena, late Italian Minister of Finance ; Father Joseph Fabre, Superior-General of the Oblate Missionaries ; General de Failly ; Herr von Forckenbeck, Chief Burgomaster of Berlin ; Vice-Admiral Jurien de la Gravière ; General Grosser, Prefect of St. Petersburg ; M. Grossier, French Minister of Public Works ; Don Fernando de Souza, Marquis de Guadabayar ; Count Holstein-Holsteinborg, a great Danish landowner ; Daniel Irangi, Hungarian patriot ; Captain-General Joaquin Jovellar, three times Spanish Minister for War ; State Chancellor Dr. Saul Kämpf ; M. Karl Kerkapoly, ex-Hungarian Finance Minister ; General Klapka, a leader of the Hungarian revolution of 1848 ; M. Jovo Krsmanovics, a

Servian millionnaire ; Professor P. A. de Lagarde, Orientalist ; Lady Li, wife of the Viceroy of China ; Isidore Loeb, of the Alliance Israélite Universelle ; Rear-Admiral L. Maudit ; Lieutenant-General Carl Müller, last surviving German officer of Waterloo ; Pasha Namyk, the oldest Turkish marshal ; Baron Bodog Orczy, of the Upper House of the Hungarian Legislature, and a distinguished musical composer ; Lieutenant D. Orell, Austrian Polar explorer ; Dr. Karl Petersen, Burgomaster and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hamburg ; General Protitch, one of the Servia Regents ; Alexander Rizcs Rangabé, Greek statesman ; Baron J. Reinach, of the Panama Canal Company, a well-known Paris banker ; Carlo Rota, the Italian patriot ; General Maurizio Gerbaix de Sonnax, Italian soldier ; J. Sverdrup, ex-Premier of Norway ; Professor Dr. Bernhard Ten Brink, Strasburg University ; the Duc de Trevesi, formerly Chamberlain to Napoleon III. ; General Count Yamada, formerly Minister of Justice in Japan ; M. Guillaume Guizot, son of the famous historian ; Admiral de Saint-Bon, Italian Minister of Marine ; Count Colonna Ceccaldi, diplomatist ; M. W. Bonaparte Wyse, grandson of Lucien Bonaparte, and a Provençal poet ; Prince Malatesta ; General Dumont ; Marquis d'Hervey du Saint-Denys ; M. Massicault, French Resident at Tunis ; and M. Alexandre Albert, the working-man member of the Provisional Government of 1848.

The following deaths, which may be classed under the heading of "Miscellaneous," have also been recorded :—Mr. Jay Gould, the American millionnaire ; Mr. Justice Bradley, of the United States Supreme Court ; Dr. Windscheid, Professor of Roman Law at Leipsic ; Mr. Samuel Brandram, the Shakespearean reciter ; Mr. R. J. Bush, the pioneer of cheap literature and free trade in bookselling ; Miss Clough, principal o Newnham College , Mr. Alfred Goodwin, Professor of Greek and Latin at London University College ; Mr. W. S. Moses, the spiritualist, editor of *Light* ; Mr. John Murray, the well-known publisher, Mr. R. L. Nettleship ; Mr. Osgood, the publisher ;

Mr. Robert Parry, the Welsh bard ; Mr. G. Crcom Robertson, Professor of Philosophy at London University College ; Professor Jean Rosmar (natural son of William I. of Holland), vice-president of the City of New York College ; Rev. A. H. Wratislaw, an erudite Sclavonic scholar ; Dr. Löwenherz, director of the Imperial Physical Institute, Berlin ; Mr. S. Morgan, F.S.A., vice-president of the British Archæological Association ; Dr. James Thompson, Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering at Glasgow ; General S. W. Crawford, a distinguished commander in the American Civil War ; Vice-Admiral Dienhard, commanding the German evolutionary squadron ; Rear-Admiral J. C. Howell, United States Navy ; Admiral Peyron, formerly French Minister of Marine ; Mr. T. W. Angell, of the Postal service ; Mr. J. R. Burlton-Bennett, former Postmaster-General of Bengal ; M. Pierre Caubet, French Consul-General in London ; Captain W. H. Cornish, assistant foreign secretary to the Indian Government ; Le Comte de Sartiges, French Ambassador to the Vatican ; Mr. A. G. Finlaison, formerly the Government actuary ; Udayashankar Gorrishankar, Prime Minister of Bhownaggur ; Mr. Edward Graves, engineer-in-chief to the General Post Office ; Mr. John Cashel Hcey, C.M.G. ; Mr. John Inglis, secretary to the corporation of Trinity House ; Count de Launay, Italian Ambassador at Berlin ; Mr. J. G. M'Carthy, an Irish Land Purchase Commissioner ; Mr. C. T. Maude, Chargé d'Affaires at Santiago ; Mr. Lionel Moore, Orientalist and diplomatist ; Mr. Victor Morier ; Mr. C. A. Perkins, formerly United States Minister in Portugal ; the Hon. Edwards Pierrepont, formerly American Minister to England ; Mr. H. H. Romilly, C.M.G., late British Commissioner in New Guinea ; Mr. John D. Sandford, formerly Judicial Commissioner of Burmah and of Mysore; Mr. Benjamin Scott, Chamberlain of the City of London ; Mr. William Taylor, formerly Commissioner of Patna ; Mr. W. F. de Winton, of the British East Africa Company ; Mr. F. J. Woods, personal secretary to Mr. Balfour ; Mrs. Nye Chart, actress ; Miss

Sophie Eyre, actress ; Miss Lydia Foote, actress ; Mr. Robert Franz, composer ; M. Henri Guiraud, composer ; M. Hervé (Florimont Ronger), composer ; Edouard Lalo, composer ; Mrs. Leigh Murray, actress ; Mr. Charles Edward Stephens, composer ; M. Max Strakosch, operatic *entrepreneur* ; Mr. A. Goring Thomas, composer ; Mme. Trebelli-Bettini ; Mr. T. E. Wenman, actor ; M. Victor Wilder, French librettist ; Mr. H. F. Burton, late Civil Commissioner in Griqualand ; Colonel Napier Champ, colonial statesman ; the Hon. L. R. Church, formerly Attorney-General and Treasurer of Quebec ; the Hon. George Duhamel, formerly Solicitor-General of Quebec ; Mr. F. N. Gisborne, superintendent of Canadian telegraphs ; Mr. Richard Jones, formerly Treasurer of New South Wales ; Mr. W. W. Kenrick, Commissioner of Mines in British Guiana ; the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, ex-Premier of Canada ; Mr. Alfred Patrick, C.M.G., Clerk of the Canadian House of Commons ; Mr. H. J. Pauling, Chief Engineer of Cape Government Railways ; Mr. Rhodes, ex-Canadian Minister of Agriculture ; the Hon. John Robson, Premier of British Columbia ; the Hon. Michael Solomon, C.M.G., of Jamaica ; Mr. E. Blaine, son of Mr. J. E. Blaine ; M. Hector Crémieux, the well-known French dramatist ; Magdalen Ponsa, the oldest inhabitant of Vienna, aged 117 ; M. E. L. Rockholz, the Swiss archæologist ; Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, the German geologist ; Mr. William Astor ; Mr. Stephen Austin, Oriental printer ; Emil Behnke, the voice trainer ; Isaac Bone, the Alton centenarian, aged 104 ; Mr. J. H. Bostwick, an American millionnaire ; Mr. W. H. Bradbury, the well-known printer ; Mr. R. Brocklebank, Liverpool shipowner and philanthropist ; Mr. F. Charsley, Registrar of Eton College and ex-Coroner for South Bucks ; Mr. Thomas Cook, founder of the popular system of excursion tours ; Miss Sophia Cracroft, niece of Sir John Franklin ; Mrs. T. A. Dorrien-Smith, wife of the owner of the Scilly Isles ; Mr. Charles E. Flower, the generous Shakespearian donor ; Mr. William Galt, advocate of the State

ownership of Irish railways ; F. Ginnett, the circus proprietor ; John Hyslop, the "postman poet" of Kilmarnock ; Gavin Kirkham, secretary of the Open-Air Mission ; Mr. J. J. Knox, originator of the currency system of the United States national banks ; Dr. F. S. Leighton, father of Sir Frederic Leighton ; Mr. F. R. Leyland, president of the National Telephone Company ; Mr. Daniel Lothrop, the American publisher ; Mrs. Haines, keeper of the "Old Curiosity Shop" in Fetter-lane ; Mrs. Markham, centenarian, aged 107 ; Mrs. Wardroper, matron since 1854 of St. Thomas's Hospital ; Mr. John Morgan, general manager of the Glasgow and South-Western Railway ; Mr. E. Vansittart Neale, a pioneer of the co-operative movement ; Mr. Thomas Nelson, the Edinburgh publisher ; Mr. John Noble, ex-secretary of the London and Counties Liberal Union ; Mr. R. Potter, ex-chairman of the Great Western Railway Company ; Mr. J. E. Price, F.S.A., archæologist ; Edward Rehatsek, a distinguished linguist and anchorite of Bombay ; Mr. C. Weatherly Reynell, printer of the *Examiner* and a life-long friend of Leigh Hunt ; Mr. Percy Ricardo, J.P. ; Mr. G. P. Sanderson, Government elephant hunter in India ; Lieutenant F. Schwatka, the explorer ; T. Wilshire Summerson, of Brightlingsea, in his 101st year ; Mr. Thomas Taylor, the great cotton manufacturer ; Joseph Tussaud, grandson of Mme. Tussaud ; Umnyamana, a Zulu chief, uncle of Cetywayo ; Mr. W. F. Wallett, the "Queen's jester" ; Mr. Deputy Walter ; Wau-bun-o, hereditary Delaware Indian chief, and a Christian and total abstainer ; Mr. Richard J. Mahony, D.L., of Dromore Castle, county Kerry ; Inspector-General of Hospitals J. R. Taylor ; M. Talazac, the operatic singer ; Mr. J. P. Brunner ; Mr. J. F. Shaw, the publisher ; Mr. Tom Hohler ; Mr. John Gibson, F.S.A., Architect ; Mr. Hughes Scott, proprietor of the *Rochdale Observer* ; Mrs. Wardroper ; Mr. Joseph Levy, of Whitechapel, in his 104th year ; Mr. A. M. Ferguson, pioneer in Ceylon planting ; Miss Wadman, burlesque actress ; Captain Karl Hakanson, Royal Swedish

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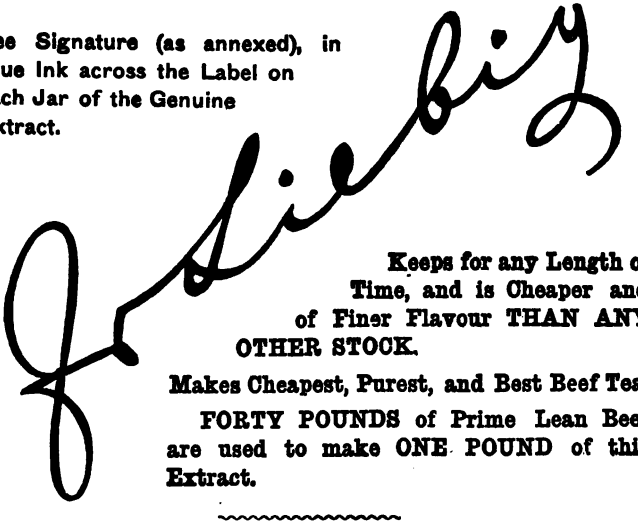

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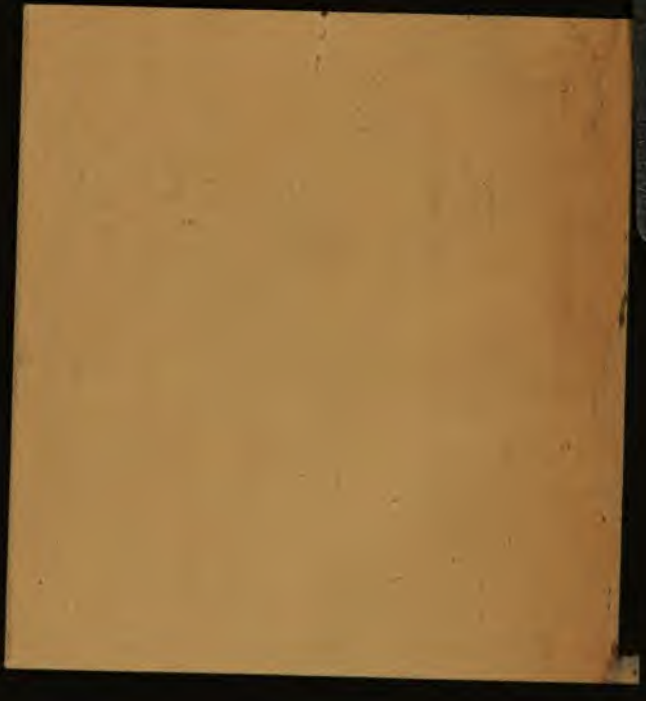

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